

Chancellor under savage attack from all quarters

Hostility to the Budget swept upon the Government from almost all sides of the nation yesterday. The TUC and the CBI were at one in deploring Sir Geoffrey Howe's failure to give decisive encouragement to industrial expansion (Report, page 2). The universities predicted a disintegration into chaos, with the closure of some

institutions, because of a 15 per cent cut in income over three years. The Cabinet itself was beset with rumours that some ministers were profoundly shocked when the Budget proposals were disclosed to them. Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, denied that he was to resign on the issue. Mr Peter Shore, the shadow

Chancellor, congratulated Sir Geoffrey in bringing together the disparate elements of the nation in collective hostility to the proposals. To wild Labour cheers in the Commons he claimed that the Budget would create unemployment and accelerate the decline of industry and the economy (Report page 2).

Fears of university system collapsing from loss of income

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

Britain's university system is likely to disintegrate into chaos as a result of a cut in income of about 15 per cent that the universities will face over the next three years, the University Grants Committee (UGC) and the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals (CVCP) will tell the Government today.

The possibility of having to close whole universities, and of removing all postgraduate facilities or entire faculties from other universities, is being openly discussed.

At the same time, universities are likely to suffer another severe blow arising from the Government's revised estimates, as yet unpublished, on the future demand for school teachers.

The new figures show that the present planned output of newly-trained teachers from teacher training colleges and university departments of 17,000 a year already far exceeds the estimated demand for the current year of 12,000, and that demand is expected to fall sharply over the next three years to a low of 3,500 in 1983-84.

It is then considered unlikely to rise above 10,000 until 1991. That dramatic fall in demand, arising partly from a reduction in teachers' jobs as a result of government spending cuts, partly from the falling number of pupils in schools, and partly from a lower than expected teacher wage rate, will

almost inevitably mean closures of teacher training colleges and university education departments.

At their meeting today with Mr Mark Carls, Secretary of State for Education and Science, the vice-chancellors and the UGC will explain that the 8 per cent cut, which the Government said in its public expenditure white paper was planned for higher education over the next three years, is likely to amount to about 15 per cent for universities as a result of the combined effects of the Government's policy on overseas student fees and inadequate cash limits.

University staff costs account for about 70 per cent of total expenditure, and it is there that most of the savings will have to be found.

By declaring his decision to fight, Mr Prior implicitly confirmed his opposition to the thrust of the Budget. Like the rest of the Cabinet he learnt of his proposals at the Cabinet meeting only a few minutes before the Chancellor delivered his speech in the Commons.

It is accepted at Westminster that among ministers profoundly shocked by the Chancellor's failure to offer any real relief to industry were, with Mr Prior, Lord Carrington, Foreign Secretary, Mr Francis Pym, Leader of the House and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Sir Ian Gilmour, Lord Privy Seal, and Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture.

They are all senior Cabinet members identified with, or close to, the so-called "wet" faction, who worry over what

Mr Prior denies he is to resign after Cabinet-crisis reports

By Fred Emery
Political Editor

Amid talk at Westminster of crisis for the Cabinet over the Budget, Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, last night told *The Times* that he was not resigning but continuing the fight.

Choosing his words carefully, Mr Prior said: "There is no question of my resignation. I am going to fight my corner for the Government, and in the Government." There was emphasis on both prepositions.

The question over Mr Prior's wishing to remain in the Cabinet arose when it was learnt that his associates were having, as they believed, difficulty persuading him to stay and fight. But Mr Prior chose to deliver his message in a deliberately turning up at the Commons to show that he was not evading colleagues and reporters.

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they see as the obsession with monetarism and favour some expansion in the economy. While Mrs Thatcher herself was delivering, in an extraordinary lunch speech, a resounding rebuke to her critics, perhaps inside the Cabinet as well as outside it, two fell blows were struck at herself and the Chancellor.

The suggestion that Cabinet members must be asking themselves whether they could stay on after this Budget was voiced on television by Mr Norman St John-Stevas, who was relieved of his Cabinet post in the January reshuffle.

On ITN's *News at One* he was asked if he could have remained in the Cabinet after this Budget. He replied: "What I ask myself is can other people remain in the Cabinet who may have similar views to my own?"

"If I ask myself that question, however, said he would vote to support the Budget 'whatever reservations I may have'.

That statement shook Conservative business managers, and in Whitehall it was acknowledged that the party had not been in such a state since Mrs Thatcher herself deposed Mr Heath for the leadership. However, Mr Peter Tapsell, an influential City backbencher, and a former member of Sir

Geoffrey Howe's shadow ministerial team, called flatly for his dismissal.

In a stinging statement he said: "Sir Geoffrey Howe has now lost the confidence of broad sections of the City, of industry, of the Cabinet and of the Conservative parliamentary party. His policies are damaging to the nation."

The Prime Minister has a strong sense of duty and of patriotism. She owes it to the country and to the Conservative Party to find a Chancellor of the Exchequer who will command confidence and offer hope.

The Prime Minister was unaware of these two broadsides when she spoke at lunchtime, and concentrated most of her counterattack against the hostile press reaction and that of the more vocal critics.

Speaking at a ceremony of the award to *The Guardian* young businessman of the year, she denied Mr Michael Foot's charge that it was a "no-hope Budget".

She turned on her critics in the unrestrained manner which has recently been unavailing her Cabinet colleagues. "What gets me even more is that having demanded the extra expenditure for education, we are now faced with the necessity to get some of the tax to pay for it."

"One of the most immoral things you can do is to pose as the moral politician demanding more for education, more for housing, more for everything, and then when you see the bill say: 'No, I didn't mean you to pay tax to pay for it, I meant to tax money was the most immoral path of all', you to borrow more."



Princess Anne, wearing a black and gold mortar-board and gown, taking her seat for the first time as Chancellor of London University.

Britain rejects EEC farm price package

By Hugh Clayton
Agriculture Correspondent

Britain yesterday rejected the agricultural price package recommended for the coming 12 months by the European Commission.

Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, said: "It would mean in money terms that British farmers would have no increase at all. That would be totally unacceptable to the British Government."

He listed five British objections to the Commission's plan which would raise EEC farm support prices by about 8 per cent and food prices by 2½ per cent.

Mr Walker told members of the Commons select committee on the European Communities that the Government's plan would add a 1.2 per cent to food prices in Britain. The Government favoured price restraint but the amount proposed by the Commission was half of that claimed by farmers throughout the EEC.

The Government opposed the combination of measures sought by the Commission because it

Britain, the 8 per cent farm price rise would be cancelled out by simultaneous levies and changes in the green pound.

"To some extent you could argue that the agriculture most in need of an increase is British agriculture," Mr Walker said. He added that the Government had not decided by how much the price of each commodity should be raised. But he indicated that the Government would want a wider gap than the Commission proposed between prices of cereals and those of livestock products, like milk and meat.

Mr Walker's third objection was the omission of the beef premium subsidy. He was reluctant to accept the Commission's proposed extension of levies on surplus production from milk and sugar to other sectors.

His final objection was to the 10 per cent rise proposed for wine prices.

Discord at TUC over dinner with the Prince

By Donald Macintyre
Labour Reporter

TUC white-collar staff refused to cooperate with a visit to Congress House by the Prince of Wales last night. Although the effect of the protest was thought to be minimal, Mr Len Murray, secretary of the TUC and chief host, was understood to have been upset by the attitude of the staff, who at two union meetings passed resolutions deploring the visit.

The Prince of Wales's visit at which he dined with most of the six union leaders who sit on the National Economic Development Council, was part of a continuing programme of visits and discussions involving both sides of industry.

Neither side would comment last night on what by any standards must be one of the most inauspicious industrial disputes in recent history. A few staff were said to have declined to shift wine required for the dinner. White-collar employees will also refuse to handle correspondence arising from the visit.

The decision not to cooperate, originally taken last January and endorsed at a well-attended meeting last week, also theoretically applied to the secretaries of leading TUC officials required to handle correspondence with Buckingham Palace in the weeks of preparation.

The most perceptible effect of the decision was that 120 employees represented by the white-collar staffs committee was that the TUC's press office declined to answer reporters' inquiries about the dinner, referring all calls to Mr Norman Willis, the TUC's deputy general secretary.

Staff preparing and serving the Prince's dinner are understood to be Co-operative Society employees and therefore unaffected by the decision. Although the six unions, and their constituent TUCs, have agreed to work normally and to nothing which would cause embarrassment during the visit.

The dispute began on January 23 when the staff passed a resolution endorsing the white collar committee's agreement to work normally and to nothing which would cause embarrassment during the visit.

The committee then wrote to Mr Murray saying that while they accepted the TUC's need to meet people from many quarters of society the Prince's visit was of purely "symbolic value" and inappropriate at a time of soaring unemployment.

Mr Murray then wrote back reminding the joint staff committee in effect that as the civil servants of the TUC their members had a duty to abide by decisions of the TUC Congress and the General Council.

There were no signs of any opposition to the visit when the Prince arrived at the TUC headquarters.

Of the six union leaders who sit on the council, Prince Charles met Mr Murray Evans, Mr David Bennett, Mr Terence Duffy, Mr Geoffrey Drain, and Mr Murray. The sixth member, Mr Frank Chapple was in Australia.

Sentence of death for Belfast man

From Our Correspondent
Dublin

Peter Rogers, aged 36, of Belfast, was sentenced to death at the Special Criminal Court in Dublin on the charge of the murder of a policeman in a Westford last October. The date of the execution was set for April 6. An appeal is expected to be made.

Three other men, sentenced to death for the murders of two policemen in Roscommon last summer are awaiting their appeal hearing. The death sentence is still given in the Republic of Ireland for certain categories of murder, including that of policemen.

During the trial it emerged that the police believed the discovery of a large quantity of arms, ammunition, and explosives in the defendant's van had prevented a terrorist attack in Britain.

Mr Rogers, who denied murdering Garda Seamus Quaid, said he had only fired his gun to enable him to escape when two policemen stopped his van.

Sir Maurice Oldfield dies aged 65

By a Staff Reporter

Sir Maurice Oldfield, the former head of British Intelligence and supposed model for some famous fictional spymasters, has died in hospital at the age of 65.

Sir Maurice, the alleged prototype of both George Smiley in the novels of John Le Carré and "M" in Ian Fleming's Bond saga, was last prominent as security coordinator in Northern Ireland, a post to which he was appointed in November 1979 and left last summer on health grounds.

An enigmatic and retiring figure he became head of MI6 in 1973.

Runcie initiative for Rome unity

The Archbishop of Canterbury has invited the Roman Catholic Church to enter serious detailed negotiations for unity. He set out a series of issues on which the Church of England and the Anglican Communion would have to be satisfied and asked the Roman Catholic Church to state its own specific requirements of Anglicanism. His initiative is seen as being timed with the Pope's visit to England next year in mind (Page 4)

West Bank pledge

Mr Shimon Peres, leader of Israel's Labour Party, has said that existing Jewish settlements on the West Bank would not be dismantled by any government under his leadership. He made it clear that Labour's policy of keeping settlements away from areas heavily populated by Palestinians would only apply to those set up after June (Page 8)

£500m defence shortfall

Pressure on the defence budget as a result of a recently discovered gap of £500m between commitments and available funds has led the Ministry of Defence to reassess the scope of equipment and manpower needs. The 5 per cent shortfall is equivalent to the annual cost of the Trident missile programme (Page 5)

Women win pensions case

The European Court of Justice ruled in favour of two British women who sued Lloyds Bank over sex discrimination in its pension scheme. The case was hailed by the Equal Opportunities Commission as a "landmark" in the long journey towards achieving equality (Page 4)

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Prime Minister of Malta reprimands magistrate

Mr Dom Mintoff, Prime Minister of Malta, has strongly criticised a magistrate and warned him of possible dismissal over his handling of the case against the deputy leader of the opposition Nationalist Party. Distribution of *The Times* has been stopped from yesterday by order of the Government for allegedly presenting a distorted picture of the country's affairs (Page 8)

EEC fund criticism

An attack on the way Whitehall departments choose specific industrial projects for grants from the EEC regional development fund has been made by the House of Lords European Communities Committee in a report (Page 3)

Pupil profiles proposed

School examinations are far too academic and are incapable of assessing many of the qualities most highly valued by employers, the Confederation of British Industry said in evidence to the Commons Select Committee on Education. It said it supported the development of pupil "profiles", which would record attributes that conventional tests were not designed to evaluate (Page 3)

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UN agencies hard hit by Reagan budget

From Frank Vogl
US Economics Correspondent

Washington, March 11
The United Nations Development agencies, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank and the Asian Development Bank are now in doubt as a result of decisions taken by the Reagan Administration.

The existence of the International Development Association (IDA) is in the balance because of new White House budget decisions.

At the same time President Reagan has decided to shrink the American Peace Corps, reduce the scale of direct American food aid and curb the American bilateral development assistance.

The precise details of the Reagan Administration's foreign aid budget suggest that the Department of State lost in its battle with the Office of Management and Budget to secure strong American representation in the World Bank.

President Carter sought budget authority for the coming fiscal year of \$653m (£299m) to cover American participation in bank capital increases, but President Reagan has slashed this figure.

He has sought budget authority for the World Bank for next year of only \$110m. The United States failure to take up its share of the bank's capital increases could result in the American shareholding in the bank falling by several percentage points from its present level of 21 per cent, which will inevitably mean a significant fall in American influence in this institution.

President Reagan wants budget authority for funding the Inter-American Development Bank appropriation of \$244m for the 1982 fiscal year — \$17m below this year's level and \$115m below President Carter's request.

The Asian Development Bank faces equally grim prospects. Mr Reagan wants \$130m for this bank for next year, com-

pared to present funding of \$138m and a request for 1982 by President Carter of \$174m. The situation at the World Bank, a concessionary loan affiliate, the International Development Association, could rapidly become desperate. If cut off of funds last summer when Congress failed to make the necessary appropriation, the IDA's life has been kept going only through a bridging loan from the Japanese and Europeans, with funds from this source running out within a few days.

The United States promised to provide \$3,240m to the IDA over three years and President Carter proposed the equal instalments of \$1,080m. Mr Reagan has called in his new budget for the current year's IDA funding to be cut to \$540m and for next year's funding to be cut to \$850m.

These moves indicate to some Congressmen that the President is not concerned about the association and that this, in turn, is leading to Senate efforts to trim President Reagan's proposals substantially, according to informed sources.

The Administration has signalled that it assigns a low priority to multilateral aid and, as a result, fast action on funding for the IDA is being sought from Congress.

The new budget also seeks a cut in Mr Carter's budget proposals for funding organizations of the United Nations.

Total State Department funding in this area was proposed by Mr Carter at \$655m, but President Reagan has now slashed this by \$118m. A big casualty, according to sources here, is the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco).

The Reagan budget's foreign military assistance total is \$6,300m compared to Mr Carter's proposed level of \$5,400m.

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HOME NEWS

Extra £40m in fuel subsidy for needy and big rise in disabled allowance

By Frances Gibb

The Government is to give an extra £40m to help more than two million people on supplementary benefit to pay their fuel bills, Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Services, announced yesterday.

The supplementary benefit heating allowances are to rise by 18 per cent, the expected rise in fuel prices between last November and this. "Rising fuel costs are causing increasing anxiety among needy people and the Government has every sympathy with the difficulties which they face."

Announcing a £200m package of measures aimed at bringing help to "the least privileged members of the community", he also said pensioners will receive their £10 Christmas bonus and there will be a big rise in the disabled people's mobility allowance.

The increase of nearly 14 per cent to £16.50 a week, indicates the importance the Government attaches to the allowance, he said, and he was glad to announce it in the International Year of the Disabled.

The extra cash to meet fuel bills comes on top of a £200m programme last year and boosts total government spending on the fuel benefit programme to more than £250m, helping about 2.25 million people.

The fuel allowance can be claimed by pensioners over 70 on supplementary benefit, and householders with children under five on supplementary benefit. Supplementary benefit claimants with special circumstances, such as illness or a house which is hard to heat, may also qualify.

The supplementary benefit heating addition will go up from £1.40 a week to £1.65 a week, or £33.80 a year, and will help 1,500,000 people, Mr Jenkin said.

The higher rate heating addition will rise from £3.40 to £4.05 a week, or £210.60 a year, helping 400,000 people, including the most severely disabled, who get the benefit automatically.

Help the Aged and Age Concern immediately welcomed the continued government help for poor people in meeting fuel

bills. But they criticized the low level of the Christmas bonus for pensioners.

Mr Hugh Faulkner, director of Help the Aged, said it was disappointing that the bonus was to remain at £10. It had stood at that level since being introduced in 1972. A more reasonable figure was £35.

Age Concern also said that there were many elderly people who would not benefit from the fuel allowances, although they were near the poverty line. They were just a few pounds away from being able to claim supplementary benefit and would be "left out in the cold."

Details of the child allowances, for those receiving benefits, on top of the child benefit increases, announced in the Budget, also provoked a storm of criticism from the Child Poverty Action Group and the National Council for One Parent Families.

Miss Ruth Lister, director of the poverty action group, said that about a million children would be only a few pence or one per cent, better off than they were last year.

"The Government has repeated its mean trick of cutting the rate of child support for national insurance benefit claimants by an administrative sleight of hand," she said.

Other increases announced by Mr Jenkin include a rise in the family income supplement from £17 to £18.50 for a one-child family. The prescribed income levels for the supplement go up by £7 to £74 weekly for one-child families, and the extra amount for each further child is raised by £1 to £8.

Supplementary benefits and war pensions are to go up by 9 per cent, the same rate as other national insurance benefits announced in the Budget, and Mr Jenkin said the invalidity allowance paid with the invalidity pension was to go up by 14 per cent to restore the 5 per cent cut last November.

restoring the value of the invalidity benefit, he said, and he reiterated the Government's pledge to restore the full value of the pension

INCREASED BENEFIT RATES

	Existing	Proposed
Child benefit:		
Each child:	4.75	5.25
One parent benefit (formerly child benefit increase):		
First or only child of certain lone persons:	3.00	3.30
Standard rate of retirement and widows' pensions, and widows' mothers' allowances:		
Single person:	27.15	28.80
Wife or other adult dependant:	16.20	17.75
An age addition of 25p is payable to retirement pensioners who are aged 80 or over.		
Standard rate of invalidity pension:	26.00	28.35
Single person:	13.50	17.00
Wife or other adult dependant:		
Invalidity allowance:		
Higher rate:	5.70	6.20
Middle rate:	3.60	4.00
Lower rate:	1.80	2.00

	Existing	Proposed
Standard rate of unemployment and sickness benefit:		
Beneficiary under pension age:	20.65	22.50
Single person:	12.75	13.80
Wife or other adult dependant:		
Beneficiary over pension age:	26.00	28.35
Single person:	15.80	17.00
Wife or other adult dependant:		
Widows' allowance (first 26 weeks of widowhood):	39.00	41.40
Maternity allowance:	20.65	22.50
Attendance allowance:	21.65	23.65
Higher rate:	14.45	15.75
Non-contributory invalidity pension, invalid care allowance:		
Higher rate:	16.30	17.75
Increase of non-contributory invalidity pension and invalid care allowance for a wife or other adult dependant:	9.80	10.65
Mobility allowance:	14.50	16.50
Guardian's allowance, child's special allowance:	7.50	7.70
Rate of benefit for children of widows, invalidity, non-contributory invalidity and retirement pensions, invalid care beneficiaries, unemployment and sickness beneficiaries when claiming a own pension age:	7.50	7.70
Rate of benefit for children of all other beneficiaries:	1.25	0.80

	Existing	Proposed
Supplementary benefit:		
Family income supplement:		
One child:	34.60	42.45
Two children:	21.30	27.15
Three children:	17.05	21.70
Four children:	13.10	16.95
Any other person aged 16-17:	10.90	11.90
Under 11 years:	7.30	7.90

	Existing	Proposed
Non-householder housing addition:	2.15	To be announced
Heating addition to supplementary benefit:		
Lower rate:	1.40	1.65
Higher rate:	3.40	4.05
Invalidity addition to supplementary benefit:		
Higher rate:	2.80	No change
Lower rate:	1.25	No change
Addition for claimant, or dependant over age 60:	25p	No change

	Existing	Proposed
Family income supplement:		
Prescribed amount for family with one child (income below which £18 is payable):	67.00	74.00
Increase in prescribed amount for each additional child:	7.00	8.00
Maximum weekly amount for a one-child family:	17.00	18.50
Increase in maximum amount for each additional child:	1.50	No change

	Existing	Proposed
Husband and wife:	34.60	42.45
Non-householder aged 16 and over:	17.05	21.70
Non-householder aged 16-17:	13.10	16.95
Any other person aged 16-17:	10.90	11.90
Under 11 years:	7.30	7.90

	Existing	Proposed
Non-householder housing addition:	2.15	To be announced
Heating addition to supplementary benefit:		
Lower rate:	1.40	1.65
Higher rate:	3.40	4.05
Invalidity addition to supplementary benefit:		
Higher rate:	2.80	No change
Lower rate:	1.25	No change
Addition for claimant, or dependant over age 60:	25p	No change

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Mr du Cann calls for recovery programme

By Hugh Noyes

Parliamentary Correspondent

Mr Edward du Cann, chairman of the Conservative 1922 Committee and of the Treasury select committee, that recently produced a report, critical of the Government's economic strategy, said yesterday that the Government should mount a programme for national recovery.

The economic situation was grave, the level of unemployment was intolerable and the reduction in manufacturing output and capacity was unacceptable, he said.

It was worse than it appeared on the surface. He gave a warning that within the next 12 months some of the country's most significant companies might find it impossible to survive.

He did not accept that those disasters were inevitable, and the Government should mount a programme for national economic recovery. But in the midst of the gloom, Mr du Cann added, he was an optimist. What was needed was leadership and the Government should give it.

Mr Peter Shore, the shadow Chancellor, earlier in the day, had said that the Government was "battered" by all quarters to Sir Geoffrey Howe's Budget with a scathing attack that had Labour MPs cheering wildly.

It was a know-nothing, learning nothing, Budget, a Budget of failure, he hoped it was the last Budget Sir Geoffrey and "the wayward mistress of No 10" would present.

Mr Shore added that it would create unemployment and accelerate the decline of industry and the economy.

Bitterly he told the House that he could congratulate the Chancellor in that, after two years of increasing divisiveness, he had succeeded on Tuesday in bringing together all the disparate elements of the nation. To Labour cheers, he said there was now one collective spirit of total hostility.

Sweeping aside the budgetary phraseology designed to disguise the real extra burden of direct taxation, Mr Shore told the House that, in real terms, the Chancellor was placing an additional £2,500m of direct taxation on the taxpayer.

Mr Leon Brittan, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, struggled to recover some of the lost ground. At one point, to the evident disbelief of many MPs, he said that the budget could not be described as deflationary.

As MPs gasped, Mr Shore jumped to his feet to ask the Chief Secretary how he could say that the economy was not being deflated when the Chancellor was taking out £3,500m.

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TUC and industry united in attack on Budget failure to aid growth

By George Hill

There was little applause for the Budget proposals through the country yesterday, and the TUC and the Confederation of British Industry were united in deploring Sir Geoffrey Howe's failure to give decisive encouragement to industrial expansion.

The general distress ranged from the Stock Exchange to the farmyard. The TUC's economic committee decided to seek CBI support in a joint propaganda offensive against the Government's economic policies.

It claimed that the Budget intensified policies that had demonstrably failed, and predicted that its consequences would be a million more unemployed and a further big fall in output.

A worker on average pay would be about £5 a week worse off as a result of the Budget, it said, and added: "Working people cannot be expected to submit meekly to a drastic cut in their standard of living."

Sir Raymond Pennock, president of the CBI, described the Budget as disappointing. He regretted the absence of a bold boost for industry, the absence of a big cut in energy prices for large industrial users, and the failure to cut the National Insurance supplements. It had been an important opportunity to make industry more competitive internationally.

The National Consumer Council said that the increase in petrol duty would bear severely on rural communities and affect the price of all goods and services. The Automobile

Association and the Royal Automobile Club made similar comments. But the NCC welcomed the increase in child benefits, the windfall tax on bank profits, and the lower age limit for "granny bonds".

The press was divided between those newspapers that thought the Chancellor was piling on more of the same old policies, and did not like it, and those that thought he had significantly changed his tactics and deserved congratulation, if only of a sombre kind. The general implication was that some kind of U-turn should have occurred.

The Daily Telegraph was most forthright in its applause: after six months of weakness, the Chancellor had put a firm hand to the tiller. The help to industry was "most welcome".

The hardships for personal spenders "inevitable" the decision to tax bank profits "justified".

The Financial Times, too, "was pleased" to detect a step away from the "regrettable" and towards "realism" and endorsed the decision not to dash for economic expansion. But it saw the Budget as an admission of previous defeat, and a last charge for the Government's strategy.

It regretted that the new policy on tax allowances would widen the poverty gap, and like the Telegraph was worried by the hardening of former monetary targets left the Government with no ready means of knowing whether its policies were succeeding or not.

The Guardian saw the Budget as an expression of "a false

and destructive dogma" which could only delay recovery: "alienate political support, assistance for small business was too modest to be effective in a climate of recession, it frugally approved the big taxes on personal pleasures, well as those on petrol, bank profits."

The popular press were occupied first of all with impact on the drinker, smoker and the driver. Daily Mirror dwelt on breach of campaign promise and the burdens on the poor. The Sun and the Daily Express regretted the absence of stronger inflationary measures.

Only the Daily Mail applauded Sir Geoffrey's "stubborn courage" in attempting to repair his own past errors, added: "It had better be right this time."

Almost all the popular press gave striking prominence to increases in the Civil List. "Mirror" put the story on a three, with a headline "The up" which ironically tied up a phrase from its front banner: "If YOU smoke, drink or drive, UP YOURS, from Chancellor."

Most leading economic forecasting organizations also pressed condemnation and may over the likely impact the Budget on output, employment and inflation, though backers of a monetarist strategy were taking a more sympathetic line.

The consensus is that the Budget will further depress economic output,

Unemployed will be worse affected, critics say More families 'face poverty trap'

By Robin Young

Parliamentary Correspondent

Those concerned for the law paid and unemployed were emphatic that the changes announced yesterday in family income supplement and other welfare benefits would only reinforce the regressive effects of Sir Geoffrey Howe's Budget.

Mr Christopher Pond, director of the Low Pay Unit, an independent research group, estimated that the measures would result in 13,000 more families already caught in the poverty trap, whereby they lose more in tax and benefit than they gain in income if their earnings improve.

He said that families with incomes of less than £80 a week would be paying on average £185 more a week in income tax as a result of the freeze on tax allowances, 75p a week more in national insurance contributions, and £123 a week

extra on alcohol and tobacco. In some cases, the impact on those in low income groups. Although fewer poor people can afford products bearing excise duty, the Government's family expenditure survey shows the lower the income, the higher the proportion of it that will be spent on drink, tobacco or petrol.

For a couple earning £600 a week with two children, the Budget will mean a loss of £171 in extra income tax, £436 in extra national insurance, and £787 in average extra excise duties, a total loss of 2.6 per cent of earnings.

A couple with two children earning average national earnings of £130 a week will lose £185 in extra income tax, £130 in national insurance, and £253 in average extra excise duties, a total loss of 4.4 per cent of earnings.

A married couple with two children and an income of £80

a week will lose £185 in extra income tax, 80p in national insurance, and £190 in average extra excise duties, a total loss of 5.7 per cent of earnings.

A couple with two children on flat rate unemployment benefit, will receive £48 instead of £45.40, a gain of £2.60, but will lose £11 because benefits are increased by only 9 per cent, and average of £1.15 because excise duty increases. It will lose £2.58 out of £3 gained.

Another effect of the Budget is to discriminate more severely against the unemployed. A couple unemployed in the long term receiving supplementary benefit have managed on nearly £10 a week less than a retired couple long-term supplementary benefit.

Mr Robin Simpson, of National Consumer Council said: "This is a very real problem for the unemployed

Mrs Thatcher defends the 'moral' Budget

By Our Political Editor

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, setting aside her prepared text, said in a speech at the *Guardian* Young Businessman of the Year award last night: "One of the reasons which led us not to increase the standard rates of tax and not to reduce, and not to alter, the top rates of tax was the counsel of one of our previous winners, though he never knew it."

"At one time he said to me: 'Mrs T. don't take away the incentives now, just when they are beginning to work'. And I believe we were right not to increase those levels of income tax and that they will soon begin to work."

"There are occasions when I think that other businessmen, perhaps not quite as successful as your good self, are indeed like Mr Micawber, waiting for something to turn up, and that 'something' is the Government. But to them I should point out that Mr Micawber in waiting for that went bankrupt several times and eventually emigrated on borrowed money."

One or two newspapers had condemned the Budget as highly deflationary. While it was true that the measures would increase tax by £3,500m, it was also true that public spending was up by £5,000m more than was planned a year ago. Public spending next year would exceed £100,000m.

"Now what really gets me is this: that it is very ironic that

those who are most critical of the extra tax are those who were most vociferous in demanding the extra expenditures."

Having demanded that extra expenditure, they were not prepared to face the consequences of their own action and stand by the necessity to get some of the tax to pay for it.

"And I wish some of them had a bit more guts and courage than they have. Because I think one of the most immoral things you can do is to pose as the moral politician, demanding more for health, education, more for industry, more for housing, more for everything and then, when you see the bill, you say 'No, I didn't mean you to pay tax to pay for it. I meant you to borrow more...'"

"Do they really think that had we gone on policies unchanged we would have borrowed £40 billion this year at an interest rate of 12 per cent? Because I tell you we don't. We managed to borrow something under £13 billion last year. We didn't manage to borrow everything we spent. And part of it was borrowed with an interest rate of 17 per cent and quite a lot at 16 per cent."

"And for those who say 'yes, increase your deficit spending, have this, cozy inflation, they must face the fact that the interest rate would not have gone down, it would have gone up and then they would have strangled at birth any rebuilding of stocks or any expansion of

industry and investment that we might have had."

What they really meant was that they were unwilling to raise tax to pay for expenditure, and that money should be printed instead, "the most immoral path of all."

"Because what that is saying is, 'Let us quietly steal a certain amount from every pound in circulation, let us steal a certain amount from every pound saved in building societies, in national savings, from every person who has been thrifty.' What they are saying is 'Let's go and put a pair of bellows on to the rate of inflation we have now and make it a really big raging furnace, and the first people to come in and complain would have been industry...'"

"I believe this Government has taken the wise and the moral course and I will challenge anyone who takes the contrary view. I want to have a go at industry."

"I may say that I've written this all down in much better language... it's not good enough to talk but it's good enough to print so you can print it and it will save a lot of people taking down in shorthand, which you do in 25-hour week they are not always trained to do."

She hoped that many businessmen there asked why so many of their own employees refused to buy British goods but bought foreign goods instead. "Because the trouble isn't all with the con-

sumer choice. Some of it might be with the design of the product or the delivery date."

"Now, the third point. I just want to point out something which is quite different. The third point. I've lost my place. But never mind, it doesn't matter. I'm in full flood, so it never matters then."

"The third point is this. In spite of everything, and in spite of the difficulties, I did want to demonstrate, and so did the Chancellor, that behind every good man there is a good woman."

"You know. To demonstrate, so did the Chancellor—first that although we were not able to do more relief on tax allowances we did wish to do something for families, and that's why he was so careful to put up the allowances for the children by 50p each."

"Because we positively wanted to show preference for families. And I want to have a go at industry."

"I may say that I've written this all down in much better language... it's not good enough to talk but it's good enough to print so you can print it and it will save a lot of people taking down in shorthand, which you do in 25-hour week they are not always trained to do."

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For more information write to Captain W.J. Flindell RN, Officer Entry Section (9BR3), Old Admiralty Building, Spring Gardens, London SW1A 2BE.

ROYAL NAVY OFFICER

Unions seek CBI support in economic fight

By Paul Routledge

Labour Editor

Trade union leaders are to seek the support of the CBI in a fresh propaganda offensive against the Government's economic policies, after condemning the Budget as "one more desperate gamble with the British economy".

The TUC's influential economic committee argued yesterday that the Chancellor had decided to intensify policies that had demonstrably failed.

"In fact, he has gone for overkill in order to pay for the unemployment that will inevitably follow from these measures," the unions said.

Repeating their warning of a million more unemployed and a further massive fall in industrial output as a direct result of the Budget, TUC leaders asserted: "No wonder the reaction from almost every industrial quarter, including the CBI, has been so critical."

"We will be emphasizing our concern at the prospects for industry at an early meeting we intend to arrange with the CBI."

Whatever the prospects for such a joint initiative, the unions are determined not to

give ground on the pay front. The TUC economic committee estimated that Sir Geoffrey Howe's measures will cost workers on average pay about £5 a week, and insisted: "Working people cannot be expected to submit meekly to a drastic cut in their living standards."

The unions' "alternative strategy" of a £6,000m publicly funded stimulus to the economy would be the keynote of a TUC week of protest next month designed to win shopfloor support for opposition to what were described yesterday as "the Government's kamikaze tactics".

Water workers in two regions reject 13% deal

By Our Labour Staff

Hopes of averting a renewed threat of official action in the water industry remain last night despite what see certain to be a close vote 32,000 workers on their 13 per cent pay offer.

Delegates from two regions of the General and Municipal Workers' Union yesterday failed to back their negotiator's recommendation of the National Water Council's offer.

Mr Edmund Revall, the union's chief negotiator, said last night that the vote was "reasonably hopeful".

Villages cut off by floods in Welsh valleys

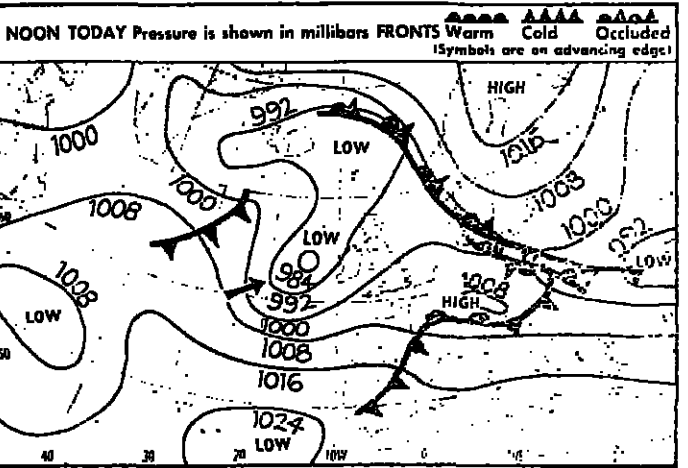
By Staff Reporters

Homes were evacuated, villages cut off and old people moved to safety yesterday as floodwater swept through Wales. In the southern mining valleys more than nine inches of rain had been recorded in four days, and watercourses throughout the area were loaded beyond their limits.

In west Wales Llanelli bore the brunt of the floods, and 64 families were moved as water poured into their houses.

At Whitland, Dyfed, 38 old people were evacuated from a home after 18 inches of water flooded in, and at Carmarthen and Bridgend bridges were closed as rivers washed over them.

Weather forecast and recordings



Today	
Sun rises: 6.22 am	Sun sets: 6.00 pm
Moon rises: 12.39 am	Moon sets: 9.54 am
First quarter: Tomorrow	
Lighting up: 6.30 pm to 5.50 am	
High Water: London Bridge: 5.46 am, 6.09 pm, 6.21 pm, 6.50 am, Avonmouth: 11.20 am, 11.58 pm, 11.37 pm, 12.12 am, Dover: 6.30 am, 6.35 am, 6.00 pm, Hull: 10.36 am, 10.48 pm, 7.36 pm, Liverpool: 3.10 am, 3.48 pm, 8.61 pm, 8.61 pm	

wind SW, moderate, increasing to fresh to strong; max temp 13°C (55°F).

East Anglia, Central N. NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Lancashire: Some sun; intervals, scattered showers; a longer period of rain in afternoon; wind SW, moderate, increasing to fresh; max temp 13°C (55°F).

NE England, Borders, Edinburgh and Aberdeen, Shetland, Firth: Scattered showers; intervals, bright or sunny periods; wind moderate to strong; max temp 13°C (55°F).

HOME NEWS

Employers want more information on pupils

By Our Education Correspondent

School examinations are too academic and do not assess qualities highly valued by employers, the Confederation of British Industry said yesterday in evidence to the Commons Select Committee on Education, Science and the Arts.

The CBI strongly supported the development of pupil "profiles" recording academic, practical and personal strengths and weaknesses, particularly social and communication skills, which conventional examinations were not designed to evaluate. It said in a memorandum to the committee.

Employers wished to see increasing evidence of applied studies in schools, especially in such subjects as mathematics and science, and orientation towards work of practical relevance.

Adaptability, flexibility, and a readiness to continue learning would be particularly important attributes in which people could expect to pursue more than one career during their working lives, the CBI said.

The importance of communication skills is a recurring theme in the CBI memorandum. It was essential for such skills to be reinforced throughout the school curriculum, with particular emphasis on developing pupils' ability to listen and speak effectively, it said.

Science and technology should also be taught throughout the curriculum. Basic science, with strong emphasis on its practical applications, should begin in primary schools and be taught to all pupils at least until the age of 14.

Modern language teaching should be directed more towards effective communication, especially in speech, and to business and social uses of language. Languages other than French, in particular German and Spanish, should be more widely taught.

The TUC, in evidence to the committee, also called for profiles of school-leavers to record competence, interests, and potential, which were not measurable by examinations.

Palace work quality 'not appropriate'

By Our Planning Reporter

The Greater London Council is to make a formal complaint to the Government's Property Services Agency about the lack of consultation on alterations to Crown buildings of special architectural or historic interest.

Mr William Bell, chairman of the council's historic buildings committee, said yesterday that the standards of design and craftsmanship in work recently carried out at St James's Palace were not of an appropriate quality.

A report said that a new dormer range now appeared in the parapet of the Old Stable Yard range, changes had been made to the roof of the open arcade, and the standard of repointing and bonding of the brickwork was inappropriate.

Mr Bell said: "The PSA normally consults the GLC and Westminster City Council before work is done, but in this case they did not do so."

The agency said that its staff had been reminded that they must go through the correct planning procedures.

Chomsky debate absorbs the Royal Society

By Pearce Wright

Science Editor

A linguistic analysis of two sentences, "John is too stubborn to help Bill" and "John is too stubborn to help", opened a monumental argument at the Royal Society in London yesterday on how human beings acquire language.

Intellectual knockabout was perhaps predictable at a joint meeting of the Royal Society for the Advancement of Science and the British Academy for the Arts, but as if to ensure that the audience of 600 researchers, teachers, computer technologists and linguists would be treated to fireworks, contributors included Professor Noam Chomsky, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Professor Chomsky believes that language is an uniquely human characteristic, and that each person has programmed into his genes a faculty called universal grammar.

The Chomsky theory has great practical implications for research into the development of machines for automatic language translation, to develop computer systems with artificial intelligence, or simply to make vending machines that will dispense tickets at a spoken command.

The aspirations of the technologist, however, seemed far removed from the urbane atmosphere in the rooms of the Royal Society.

There are large questions hanging over the use of rules that Professor Chomsky is drawing up to describe his universal grammar, and many were expressed by Dr Laurence Cohen, a linguist from Queen's College, Oxford.

Conflict is inevitable between the mathematical techniques devised to test Professor Chomsky's theories that human beings learn a language, not by induction or conditioning, as behaviourist psychologists would have us believe, but by imposing on experience innate ideas.

Dr Anthony Kenny, the Master of Balliol College, Oxford, gave an analysis which tried to reconcile the opposing theories. He did not quarrel with innateness, but nor did he accept that the evidence showed a possible set of rules fitting a universal grammar of such power as Professor Chomsky described.

Prisoner's smuggling claim

By Stewart Tandler

Crime Reporter

Prisoners at Brixton prison, London, can smuggle out anything they want to on a regular basis, a man held there told a jury at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

To show that his wife had not taken out a map to be used in an alleged escape attempt, Brian Keenan explained how things could be passed through the prison in various ways.

Mr Keenan, aged 39, his wife, Christine, and three other people have denied charges of conspiring to free him using a

Lords committee calls for better use of EEC regional fund

By George Clark

Political Correspondent

An attack on the way Whitehall departments choose specific industrial projects for grants from the EEC regional fund, then put the money into the general fund for aid to the regions, is made by the House of Lords European Communities Committee in a report published today.

After an inquiry by a sub-committee headed by Lord Plowden, the committee says that publicity given to industrial projects said to have been recipients of EEC aid is misleading, and that the system of giving aid from the regional fund for industrial investment should be abandoned.

Evidence suggested that the regional fund caused very little to happen that would not have happened anyway, and that the principle of additionality was largely disregarded in practice, the report states.

That when a specific EEC grant is awarded it is added to the government aid already made available to the company through the provisions of the Industrial Act.

It was argued before the committee that much time and effort could be saved by straight transfer of funds for regional development between the exchequer of the member states through the Community budget.

But the committee rejects that idea, arguing that it would be more difficult to establish whether the funds were actually

spent on regional development, and even more difficult to ensure that additionality was respected.

"Instead, we consider that the objective of the forthcoming review... should be to harness the good will shown by local bodies towards the regional fund within a sensible administrative framework, by improving the present operation of the fund", the committee says.

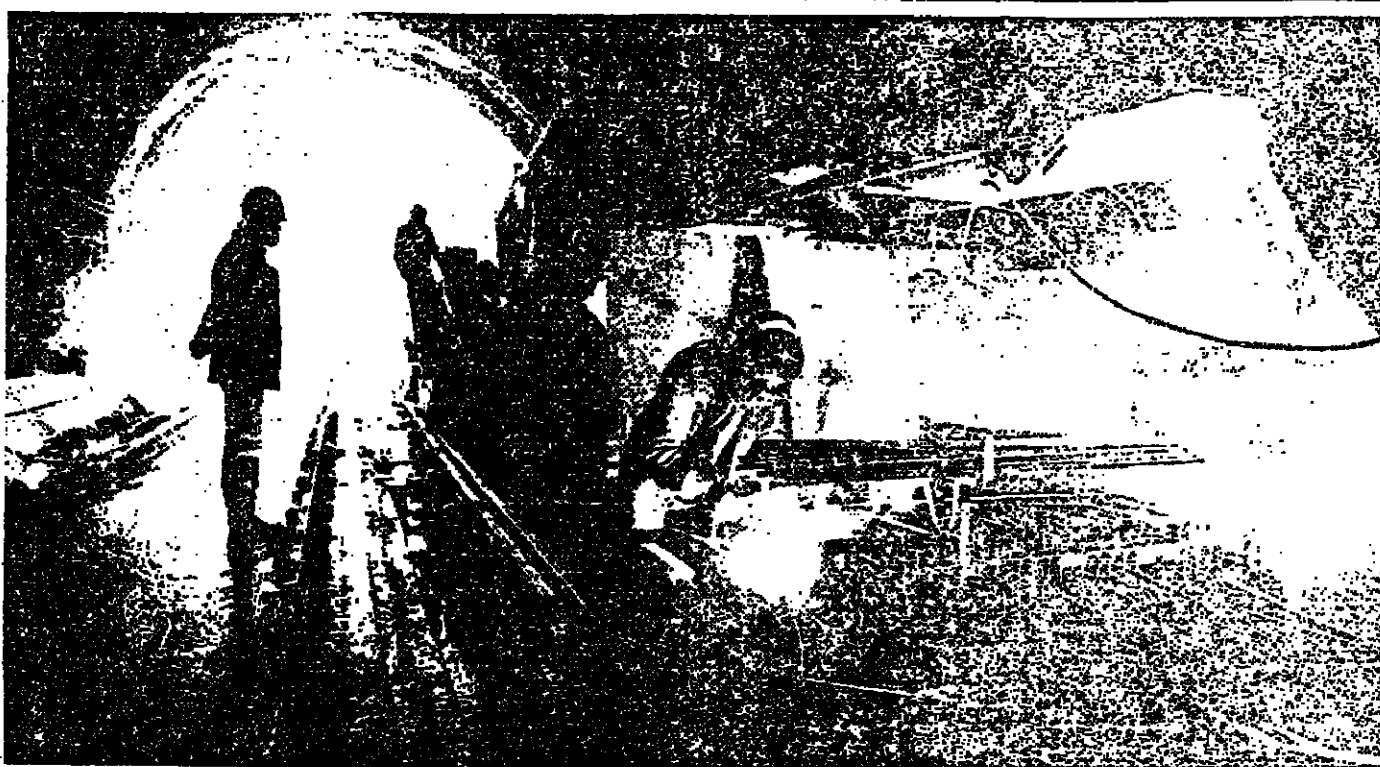
One witness, Mr T. W. Buck, of the Department of Industrial Economics, Nottingham University, said attempts were made to attract publicity to projects said to be in receipt of European aid.

Journalists did their best to put the European Commission in a good light. But at the end of the day they had to report that a company like Carreras, which was mentioned in the press in November, had enjoyed aid money in name only.

Lord Ardwick, a member of the committee and a former member of the European Parliament, commented that there was obviously a good deal of charade about regional policy.

In a general comment the committee complains that the fund is far too small. The United Kingdom received £136m in 1980.

Fourteenth Report of the House of Lords European Committee, Session 1980-81. (HL93) Regional Policy. (Stationery Office, £6.30.)



Beneath London: Paved concrete track (PACT) being laid in a tunnel between King's Cross and Farringdon for British Rail. The project is part of the St Pancras-Bedford railway electrification scheme and may eventually be used for

the north to south railway link through London. PACT was invented by British Rail engineers and the plant was designed and built by McGregor (Paving), a subsidiary of Norwest Holst, the civil engineering and construction group, which is carrying out the £750,000 contract. The tunnel is about 130 years old. The contractors are slip forming 2,000 metres of double track. The track-laying method was first used in 1967

Photograph by Keith Walbridge

Ken Dodd fined after road accident

A student told a court yesterday that his eyesight was damaged in a road accident which involved Ken Dodd, the comedian.

Mr Robert Pownall, aged 22, said he was hurled head-first into a wall when Mr Dodd drove his Ford Granada estate car across the path of his motor

cycle in Park Road, Liverpool, last October. Glass damaged his left eye, he told Liverpool magistrates. He would be blind in that eye until a special device like a contact lens was fitted.

Mr Kenneth Arthur Dodd, aged 53, of Thomas Lane, Knotty Ash, Liverpool, was fined £50 and ordered to pay £4

costs for driving without due care and attention. He denied the charge.

Mr Pownall, of Tenby Close, Cambridge, said he was travelling at about 35 mph. Mr Dodd said the motor cyclist came at him "like a flash" at between 50 mph and 60 mph.

Firm charged

Gardner Merchant Food Services Ltd, of Croydon, has been charged with 21 contraventions of food hygiene regulations as a result of food poisoning after a lunch at the completion ceremony for the Drimaster rig last August 28 at Armathwaite, Stornoway.

Voluntary code on nature sites opposed

By John Young

The government-financed Nature Conservancy Council came out firmly yesterday on the side of conservation groups and against the Government over protection of sites of special scientific interest.

A government amendment which would provide for voluntary agreements with landowners is expected to head the agenda when the Wildlife and Countryside Bill reaches the second day of its report stage in the Lords today.

But the council has said it will support an all-party amendment requiring that it be notified of all threats to scientific sites and empowered to seek agreements with the owners.

Sir Ralph Verney, the council chairman, said yesterday: "Even if a voluntary code of conduct were compiled jointly by the agricultural departments and the NCC, with full consultation with landowning and farming organizations and backed by the statutory authority of Parliament, it would not be effective in restraining either that small minority of farmers who care nothing for conservation, or those who feel in present economic circumstances that they have no option but to maximize production."

A council survey completed this week shows that of 3,051 sites of biological interest in Britain, 235 (8 per cent) were significantly damaged last year.

But a random field survey indicated that the figure might be 15 per cent.



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Rover 2600	8,983	12.1	117	21

(All from 'What Car?')

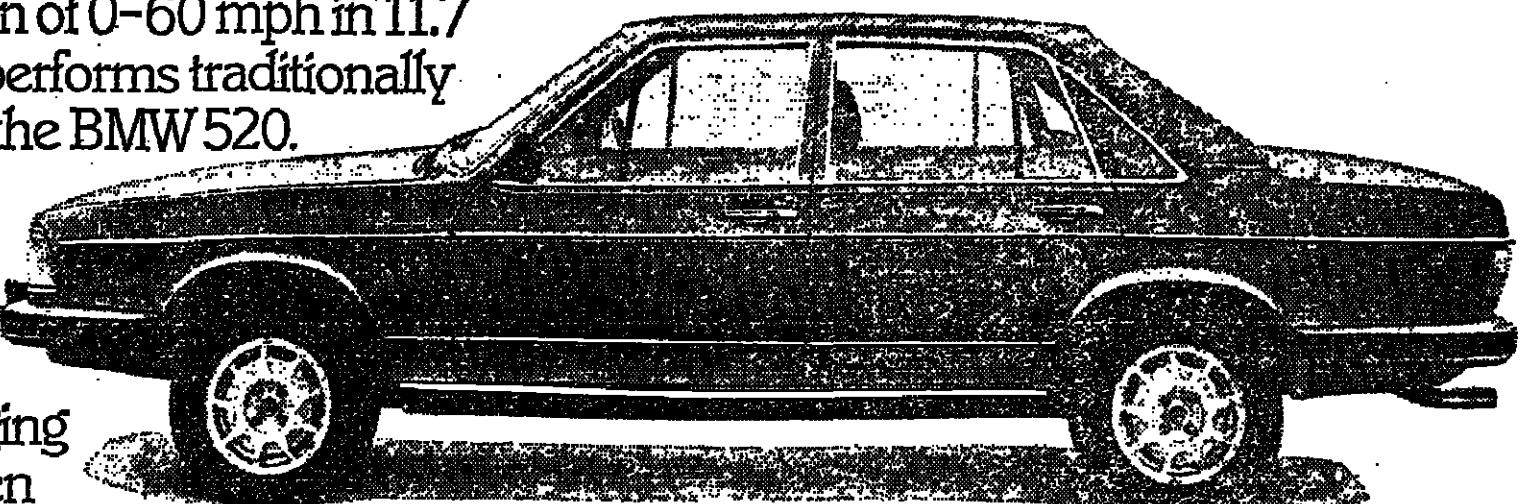
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HOME NEWS

Women win pensions discrimination case against bank

By Lucy Hodges

Two British women who sued Lloyds Bank over sex discrimination in its pension scheme yesterday won an important victory at the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg, which the bank said caused them some consternation and surprise.

The case, which directly challenges English law, was hailed by the Equal Opportunities Commission as "an historic landmark in the long journey towards achieving equality".

The commission, which supported the case, said the court had put into practice the sex equality guarantee in the Treaty of Rome for large numbers of men and women in the Community who felt discriminated against in occupational pension schemes.

The case will now return to the Appeal Court in London, where the European judgment will be considered. If it is accepted, the commission estimates that 14,000 women at Lloyds Bank will be affected.

Mrs Susan Worthington and Miss Margaret Humphreys complained that they were discriminated against because of arrangements for paying pension contributions for those aged under 25 at the bank.

Men under 25 received an extra 5 per cent on their gross salary which they paid into the pension scheme. Women under 25 were in the same scheme but their pension contributions were deducted from their salary. That meant their salary before tax was lower than the men's, although it was the same after tax.

It has meant that their redundancy payments (calculated on gross pay) were lower than the men's, and that if they left the bank before their twenty-fifth birthday they would not get any pension contributions repaid.

The men were repaid the 5

per cent they put into the pension scheme.

Mrs Worthington and Miss Humphreys asked the bank to repay the money they felt they were owed.

The judges ruled yesterday that the pension arrangement fell clearly within Article 119 of the Treaty of Rome, which says that men and women should receive equal pay for equal work. Pay is defined broadly to include remuneration in cash or kind which workers receive in respect of employment.

Lloyds Bank, which took the case to the Court of Appeal after the women had won in the Employment Appeal Tribunal, argued that the British equal pay and sex discrimination Acts contained an exemption for arrangements concerned with pensions and retirement, and that pensions were not "pay" under the Treaty of Rome.

The case, which was argued for the women by Mr Anthony Lester, QC, a political adviser to Mr Roy Jenkins when he was Home Secretary, will not affect the state pension scheme, which requires men to retire at 65 and women at 60.

But it does challenge the pensions and retirement exemption of the two Acts where occupational pension schemes are concerned.

The commission yesterday invited victims of sex discrimination in such schemes to take their cases to industrial tribunals and the courts.

This is the second case the commission has won in Luxembourg. Three other cases are outstanding, two of which involve retirement benefits in the state sector. The United Kingdom is the only country to test EEC law in that way.

Lloyds Bank said they would wait for the Court of Appeal's interpretation before taking action.

BA prefers Rolls engines to US rivals

By Arthur Reed

British Airways will stay with Rolls-Royce for engines for its fleet of new Boeing 757 airliners whatever offers the American engine manufacturers may make, Mr Roy Watts, chief executive of the airline, said yesterday.

Pratt and Whitney, one of the two big United States manufacturers, has been attempting to induce airlines which have said they will buy the Rolls-Royce RB211-535C to switch to its new engine, the 2037.

Earlier this week Rolls beat off a Pratt and Whitney approach to Eastern Airlines, the large United States operator. Eastern said it would stay with Rolls, but would take a more powerful and fuel-efficient version of the 211-535.

The statement by Mr Watts is therefore the second piece of cheering news Rolls has had on the 211-535 this week, after losing two big orders recently to the 2037 to power 757 airliners ordered by two United States airlines.

Mr Watts forecast yesterday that BA, due to make a loss of at least £100m this financial year, would return to profitability in 1981-82. If the airline's commercial plans were between the two years could be fulfilled, the financial turnaround as much as £150m, he said.

That will be achieved through lower costs, greater punctuality of services, higher productivity and lower staff numbers. BA has 6,000 fewer employees than 18 months ago, and the long-term target is to reduce the numbers to 40,000 from the peak figure in 1979 of 58,600.

BA has spent £5m to improve seating in the first-class and club-class compartments of its Boeing 747 jumbojets and a further £2m on better inflight catering.



Miss Joanna Harris on her last day at work yesterday after a closed shop dispute.

Bouquet for closed shop rebel

From Michael Horsnell

Miss Joanna Harris, who was forced to give up her job as a poultry inspector because she refused to join a trade union, left work yesterday with a bouquet of tulips from her union colleagues.

It was Miss Harris's last day as a £70-a-week council inspector

at a poultry slaughterhouse in Tipton, West Midlands, where she worked for two years until the local Labour-controlled Sandwell council told her either to join the National and Local Government Officers Association or to leave.

Miss Harris, aged 20, said: "It is a very, very sad day for me, but there is no question of changing my mind and joining the union. I enjoyed my job and do not have another one to go to. But why should I acquiesce in something I do not believe in?"

She plans to survive on her savings for a week or two while searching for jobs, but she expects to have to claim unemployment benefit soon.

Miss Harris, who has received more than 100 letters of support, is taking legal advice before deciding whether to take her case to an industrial tribunal.

She said: "The publicity has brought this situation to the attention of the Government and the public, so everyone is now aware what is happening here. That is a good thing."

"It has not really hit me yet that I shall not be coming back. I shall miss my colleagues; we have got on very well despite their decision to join Naeco. I have not decided yet

whether to appeal. What I want is reinstatement. I do not want compensation."

Her two union colleagues from the council's environmental health department who are based at the slaughterhouse took her out for a drink.

One of them, Mr Stephen Turner, aged 27, said: "I think she is a very fine young lady to have stood by her principles. I wish her well. I think what has happened to her is terrible."

Sandwell council came to a closed shop agreement with its employees last summer shortly before the Employment Act came into force.

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New Runci initiative for unity with Rome

By Clifford Longley

Religious Affairs Correspondent

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, invited the Roman Catholic Church to enter serious negotiations for unity.

Speaking in Westminster Abbey yesterday, he set out a series of issues on which the Church of England and Anglican Communion have to be satisfied, and a Roman Catholic Church state its specific requirements of Anglicanism.

Dr Runcie's initiative, cleared with the Pope's visit to England next year in mind, firms rumours that church leaders have decided that time is right to "get to grips with the remaining obstacles that separate Anglicanism from Roman Catholicism."

Cardinal Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, who can be said to know Dr Runcie as well as anyone in the Church of England, is believed to support the strategy. The strategy appears to be that each church will tell the other what its minimum demands are to see if they can be met.

Dr Runcie chose the occasion of the Pope's visit to Westminster Abbey to begin identification of the Church of England's position.

He asked questions, which Rome will be pressed to answer, touching on such issues as the degree of freedom of churches from Vatican control, and "would Anglicans be expected to accept the Latin attitudes and rulings of various Vatican Congregations?" Some of his questions were singularly sharp.

"Ultimately," he said, "theological questions can be like this: What is involved, what is not involved, in acceptance of the universal mind of the Bishop of Rome; is it ministry not solely concerned with the basic unity of faith in the worldwide communion of the churches and of God-given diversity; would it mean, at the most, a form of universal presidency, in which where essential matters faith are at stake; what can be said about the various synods of the Anglican Communion?"

His phrasing of each question included an indication how far Anglicans could go to accommodate Roman Catholic requirements. But none of his questions is the obvious, and an eventual Roman Catholic reply would have break new ground in stating negotiating position.

Dr Runcie's new approach marks a change from present phase of Anglican Roman Catholic relations, which have concentrated so far on cooperation and good will at the public level, and the search for common ground in the representatives of each church in the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission.

Substantial agreement on key issues of the Reformation has been announced by the commission, far more than expected, though the work is yet to be completed.

The burden of his remarks was to fortify Anglican commitment to diversity in a united church, and he referred to the Anglican concept of "comprehensiveness", which arose from original Elizabethan settlement in England; and also to Second Vatican Council's teaching of a "hierarchy of truth".

He said that complete agreement on everything was never had, and never had been, a characteristic of church unity; it had uniformity of practice.

"We are now at the stage of dialogue when the hard questions need to be put," he added. "Roman Catholics will have some tough questions to put Anglicans as well. In this change both traditions will be purified and renewed." He declared, absolutely committed to Anglican-Roman Catholic unity, deeply so, both personal and theological reasons.

He concluded: "It is the fore my profound hope is that when the present successor Pope Gregory comes to the country next year, St Augustine's present successor will be able to take a step towards the mutual exchange which will show both traditions clearly what visible structures that unity in diversity requires."

Computers idle: Costly computers standing idle in value-added tax headquarters Southend are a stark example of the effects of the Civil Service union's campaign "guerrilla" industrial action.

Outside the offices and other government buildings in Victoria Avenue, better known as the local population "Bureaucrats Avenue", a picket line of young women, many of whom are on strike for the first time.

The unions have called in 250 employees in the VAT and related computer operator and claim that their action could lead to a shortfall in revenues passing to the Government of £30m a week. The department's four ICL computers are all affected.

Signals station working: For the second day in succession the Government managed to keep operational its highly sensitive Composit Signals Organization Station at Bude, in Cornwall, despite the continued absence of some communications staff (Peter Hennessy writes). The installation tracks the path of Soviet satellites.

£200m increase in coal subsidy

By Paul Routledge

Labour Editor

The Government yesterday agreed to spend up to £200m more this year to keep its promise to miners to subsidise the industry.

That was the initial ceiling on increased state aid for coal mining set by the Department of Energy in resumed talks with the National Coal Board and the National Union of Mineworkers.

It represents less than half the sum regarded as necessary by NUM leaders, who are to meet this morning to assess progress in the negotiations begun last month after the threatened national pit strike was called off.

But Mr Joseph Gormley, the miners' president, insisted that yesterday's concession was "only the first stage" in renewed state aid for coal.

"There is a lot to be done before everything is finalized, but the straitjacket of the 1980 Coal Industry Act is no longer there. I feel we are getting from the Government what is needed to right the wrong done to the industry by that Act," he said.

Mr David Howell, Secretary of State for Energy, conceded yesterday that between £100m and £200m of public money would be needed simply to meet the coal board's first two obligations under the deal reached last month with the NUM.

Those are the phasing out of coal imports, now running at about eight million tonnes a year, and the withdrawal of the NCB closure programme, involving 23 pits and more than 13,000 jobs over the next year.

Initially, the NCB wants state subsidies to begin the replacement of cheap imported coal,

chiefly from the United States and Australia, being shipped in by the British Steel Corporation and the Central Electricity Generating Board.

The union also reported that the government had conceded the principle of further aid for stockpiling coal that could not be sold at present and support for coal board efforts to double export sales to eight million tonnes a year.

Mr Gormley welcomed the Government's Budget announcement of £50m expenditure to finance 25 per cent grants for companies willing to convert from other fuels to coal-burning equipment. That could increase the market by two million tonnes immediately, he said.

Price rise: The price of house coal has risen by more than 70 per cent in the past three years, the Domestic Coal Consumers' Council said yesterday in its annual report.

US team set to launch torpedo sales war

By Henry Stanhope

Defence Correspondent

Rear-Admiral Jackson, of the United States Navy, will lead a 12-man team to the Ministry of Defence tomorrow to fire the opening salvo in a £500m torpedo sales war which could have important implications for British industry.

The target is Naval Staff Requirement 7525, which means a lucrative contract to supply the Royal Navy with a new heavyweight torpedo for its submarines in the late 1980s.

He will be armed not only with an advanced version of the Mark-48 torpedo, but also with a fat packet of proposals for British sub-contractors. Gould Ocean Systems, which makes the Mark-48, hopes that those will win support in this country for the American option.

Marconi Space and Defence Systems, which is also presenting its case at the ministry tomorrow, is competing with an all-British prototype. It makes use of the high technology embodied in Sting Ray, the controversial new lightweight torpedo which is due to enter service on British helicopters,

maritime aircraft and surface warships in two years' time.

Marconi also says that a decision to choose an American torpedo to replace the Mark-24 Tigerfish in the Royal Navy would have a damaging effect on the future for torpedo development in Britain.

An indication of the fierce competition is that Mr Don Gouy, Gould's vice-president, has arrived armed with a guarantee that 35 per cent of the cost would be offset by £75m of contracts with British industry.

Moreover, Gould is dangling the prospect of trebling that if it wins the order. Gould executives also claim that their Advanced Capability Mark-48 would be ready two or three years before the British deadline, while the Marconi prototype, they say, sank during a recent trial.

Gould argues that it offered Marconi the chance to collaborate last year, but was rejected because Marconi was confident of winning the contract. That is why the Americans feel justified in making separate approaches to other British companies.

More public funds paid to Labour

By Our Political Editor

Public funds paid to opposition parties included increases during 1979 of nearly 63 per cent for the Labour Party and nearly 40 per cent for the Liberals. The Government disclosed yesterday. At the same time it was implicitly confirmed that the Social Democrats would not be entitled to any such funds until they secured MPs returned at a general election.

A parliamentary written answer by Mr Francis Pym, Leader of the House, confirmed that the substantive resolution of 1975 required that in order to qualify for financial assistance "a party must either have at least two members elected to the House as members of that party at the preceding general election or that it has one such member and received at least 150,000 votes at that election."

Further, in claiming parties are required to certify that "the expenses in respect of which assistance is claimed have been incurred exclusively in relation to that party's parliamentary business."

The updated formula, of July 1, 1980, allows £962.50 for each seat won, plus £1.92 for every 200 votes cast at the preceding general election, to a maximum of £290,000.

Payments made to date in respect of the years ended on December 31, 1979 and 1980, are as follows:		
Labour Party	138,688.00	£27,500.00
Liberal Party	23,457.00	40,340.84
Social Nat. Party	1,402.92	5,325.50
Plaid Cymru	1,980.50	974.10
Ulster Unionist Party	2,750.00	5,704.00
Ulster Democratic Party	1,387.15	2,039.40
Ulster Unionist Party	53,355.00	nil
Ulster Unionist Party	371.25	nil
Ulster Unionist Party	1,400.00	nil

Magazine wins peace prize

New Internationalist, the monthly magazine concerned with overseas development, has won the first £1,000 media peace prize sponsored by the United Nations Association of Great Britain and Ireland.

In broadcasting, the BBC won commendations for consistent objectivity in the World Service news and for a television programme, "The Fatal Spring".

Democrats may fight constituency in GLC poll

By Ian Bradley

Social democrat sympathizers in one of London's most left-wing constituency Labour parties will meet tomorrow evening to discuss the possibility of putting up a candidate in the Greater London Council elections in May.

The meeting has been organized in the Lambeth, Vauxhall constituency by Mr Roger Liddle, a former political adviser to Mr William Rodgers, MP for Teesside, Stockton and one of the founders of the Council for Social Democracy.

Mr Liddle said yesterday that he had invited local Labour members sympathetic to the social democratic position and people who had written to the council.

About a third of the active members of one ward in the constituency, Princes' Ward, were on the point of leaving Labour, he said. "Social democrats have ceased to go to party meetings because of the general atmosphere."

"The problem in Vauxhall is that you can have a debate with the left because there is no common ground. They are interested only in class confrontation."

Mr Liddle said that the possibility of putting up a social democratic candidate for the GLC election would be only one item on the agenda. He would not stand for election.

Labour's official candidate for the constituency will be Mr Bryn Davies, a left-winger, who at present represents it on the GLC.

Haughey denial of secret talks on defence pact

From Christopher Thomas

Dublin

Mr Charles Haughey, Prime Minister of the Irish Republic, yesterday bowed to pressure from within his party and rejected any immediate prospect of abandoning the country's military neutrality.

He told the Dail: "I state unequivocally that the Government are not discussing or negotiating any kind of secret agreement on defence with Britain or with any other country or group of countries."

He was careful, however, not to rule out the eventual possibility of a defence pact with Britain or Europe in the context of a political solution in Northern Ireland.

By Donald Macintyre and David Felton

Labour Staff

The first sign of government reprisals against industrial action by civil servants came last night when four Customs and Excise employees in Liverpool were told that they faced suspension this afternoon.

The warning came as the Council of Civil Service Unions claimed complete success for their "cargo blockade" of goods to and from the Irish Republic through ports in the North-west and Wales.

The four clerical assistants received a written warning that they would be suspended at 4 pm today unless they number and stamp customs entries relating to Irish freight. The Irish Export Board said in Dublin that the situation was "serious".

The move to suspend the four, all members of the Civil and Public Services Association, out of 150 employees taking action in at least five ports, brought an immediate threat of resignation.

Miss Veronica Bayne, a member of the unions' joint Paris and Airports Action Committee, said civil servants would "stand

In brief

Island offer to Royal couple

The Prince of Wales and Lady Diana Spencer have been invited to spend part of their honeymoon on the Caribbean island of Nevis.

Mr Simon Daniel, a minister in the St Kitts and Nevis Government, last night declined to say whether a reply had been received. Buckingham Palace said it was not known whether the couple had decided their honeymoon plans.

600 in hospital strike

Six hundred ancillary staff, all members of the National Union of Public Employees, at two hospitals went on strike last night after a porter who was allegedly found asleep while he claimed to be off duty was dismissed. The hospitals concerned are Booth Hall Hospital for Children and North Manchester General Hospital.

'Budget day' dispute

Officials of the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades and the management of the Financial Times are to hold talks next week on a dispute over an extra "Budget day payment" which cost 56,000 copies of the paper's final edition yesterday.

Labour resignation

Professor Peter Hall, head of the department of geography at Reading University and a former chairman of the Fabian Society, has resigned from the Labour Party after 20 years' membership.

Eurovision song entry

Bucks Fizz, the pop group, will represent Britain in next month's Eurovision Song Contest in Dublin. Their entry "Making your mind up", last night won the BBC's "Song for Europe" contest.

Later Summer Time

Summer time will begin this year at 1 am on Sunday, March 29, a week later and an hour earlier than usual because the United Kingdom is falling in line with other EEC countries.

Allowances increased

The maximum attendance allowances for members of local authorities halved increased on Saturday from £13.25 to £14 a day and the financial loss allowance from £14 to £17 a day.

Manor house saved

A residents' group has saved a Jacobean manor house, Swakeleys, at Hillingdon, west London, from dereliction by forming a company to buy it.

firm" against disciplinary action, and added: "If management do suspend, we cannot guarantee that other countries' trade will not be hit."

As the refusal to process Irish traffic halted cargo worth, according to one estimate, £15m a day, the work of Companies' House in London came to a standstill.

Solicitors and accountants were told that Companies House records would not be available for normal searches. The selective strike by 360 staff at the Southend computer centre continued to disrupt value-added tax accounting.

Customs and Excise union members also claim to have delayed the Budget increase on tobacco, drink and petrol duty. Officers in some bonded tobacco and spirit warehouses refused to perform required stock checks until today.

Mr William Kendall, general secretary of the council, said the Chancellor's measures, particularly those affecting tax, would "only increase the militancy and determination among civil servants to win the full 15 per cent claim."</

Prosecution rights on indecency retained

President Bani-Sadr says he will resign rather than bow to Tehran 'conspiracy' against him

From Tony Alloway

Tehran, March 11. President Abolhassan Bani-Sadr of Iran today threatened to resign rather than be defeated by what he described as an organized conspiracy against him.

"I have done my best to fulfill the role I have upheld," he said in an editorial published in the newspaper *Islamic Revolution*, "but... it is not the right thing to stay and shoulder the responsibility for defeat."

As the political battle continued at a rally held by the President last Thursday Mr Bani-Sadr said: "In my view the whole thing is a conspiracy, aimed at ousting the President, which will continue until the people become aware and stop it."

"This is not a republic where I can feel proud of being its president... this is not a title I have any illusions about."

This is the first time Mr Bani-Sadr has so explicitly threatened to resign after his election by more than 70 per cent of voters in January last year. The moderate newspaper *Mizan* today speculated that the President's opponents were, in fact, trying to make life so difficult for him that he would have no other choice.

Under the constitution, it noted, he would be replaced by a council consisting of the Prime Minister, the Speaker and the head of the Supreme Court, who are leaders of or

closely linked with the fundamentalist Islamic Republican Party which the President opposes.

In another surprise move apparently related to the political battle, Tehran's Revolutionary Court announced the forthcoming trial of Mr Abbas Amir-Entezam, who served as Deputy Prime Minister and the first post-revolutionary government of Mr Mehdi Bazargan.

Mr Amir-Entezam was arrested in December, 1979, after student militants, who had taken over the American embassy a month earlier, appeared on television with documents against him. They had been found in the embassy.

The charges against him, revealed today, involved plotting with the United States to push the revolution towards "compromise", opposing the religious basis of the revolution, conspiring to destroy "revolutionary institutions" and attempting to dissolve the special elected assembly that drew up the country's Islamic constitution.

Today's announcement said the charges were *prima facie* evidence of "waging war against Islam and the Holy Koran" and "opposition to (Ayatollah Khomeini) and the nation."

Mr Amir-Entezam is a member of the Iran Liberation Movement, which formed the core of the Bazargan government but which was much discredited by the taking of the American hostages.

The movement has recently been making a strong comeback in the political scene and is being increasingly seen as supporting the President.

Political observers said the trial, in six days time, might be used as a further attempt to discredit the liberation movement. When the student militants themselves attempted this, however, they had to apologize after protests from Mr Bazargan.

There were several attempts today to discredit the President. *Islamic Republic*, the newspaper of the Islamic Republican Party, printed allegations that the President lived in a special palace, built for the late Shah, during a recent visit to the frontline war town of Dezful.

It also alleged that he hardly visited the front lines and then only when the enemy artillery was silent.

About the only consolation for the President was a statement by Ayatollah Beheshti, head of the Supreme Court, that the President would be unlikely to face trial as a result of last Thursday's incidents—as had been threatened by other officials.

Attack kills 23: Iraqi missiles struck the Iranian cities of Dezful and Ahwaz last night, killing at least 23 people and destroying a mosque and 50 houses, the Iranian state radio said today. One missile destroyed the main mosque in Dezful and killed at least 13 students of religion.—Reuters.

Reagan plea for Ottawa support on El Salvador

Ottawa, March 11.—President Reagan today called for Canadian support for his controversial decision to send American arms aid to the government of El Salvador and for the overall effort to meet "imported terrorism" in Latin America.

Mr Reagan said Canada stood with the United States against "Soviet adventurism across the Earth" and it was time for a united stand to protect the whole Western hemisphere.

He did not mention El Salvador by name in an address prepared for a joint session of the Canadian Parliament but officials said he had the Central American country in mind when he spoke about imported terrorism.

The President spoke near the end of a 27-hour visit during which he and Mr Pierre Trudeau, the Canadian Prime Minister, discussed world issues, and the problems in United States-Canadian relations against a background of anti-American demonstrations.

Several hundred demonstrators heckled Mr Reagan yesterday, protesting against American aid to El Salvador and "acid rain"—polluted air drifting from the United States.

The President has ordered an increase in American arms shipments and the dispatch of military training teams to El Salvador because of what he called the flow of weapons from Cuba to left-wing guerrillas trying to topple the government of President José Napoleón Duarte.



Mrs Nancy Reagan with children from an Ottawa school for the mentally handicapped.

Mr Trudeau said last week that the President's decision to send more arms aid to El Salvador was unwise. Today, Mr Reagan said Canada and the United States had always worked together to build a world with peace and stability.

Now, with our other friends, we must embark with great spirit and commitment on the past towards unity and strength," he said.

"On this side of the Atlantic,

we must stand together for the integrity of our hemisphere—for the inviolability of its nations, for its defence against imported terrorism, and for the rights of all our citizens to be free from provocations triggered from outside our sphere for malevolent purposes."

Mr Reagan also said: "Across the oceans, we stand together against the unacceptable Soviet invasion into Afghanistan and against continued Soviet adventurism

across the Earth. And towards the oppressed and dispirited people of all nations, we stand together as friends ready to extend a helping hand."

American and Canadian officials said Mr Reagan, the first President to visit Canada since Mr Nixon in 1972, and Mr Trudeau got on well during six hours of talks. "Both the President and the Prime Minister are very upbeat," a senior United States official said.—Reuters.

Britain and Guatemala agree over Belize

By Our Diplomatic Staff

Britain and Guatemala yesterday agreed on a formula for the resolution of their 33-year-old territorial dispute over Belize. The agreement came after five days of talks in London and, it is hoped, will lead to a constitutional conference on Belize and an official treaty between the two countries by the end of the year.

The talks ended with a formal meeting yesterday morning at which Mr Nicholas Ridley, Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, joined Señor Rafael Castillo Valdez, the Guatemalan Foreign Minister, and Mr George Price, the Premier of Belize, in signing a "heads of agreement", or outline of principles on which a final treaty would be based. Details of the document are to be made public on Monday.

The agreement was an important achievement and the fruit of "a great deal of imagination and flexibility" on both sides, Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, said yesterday in announcing it to the House of Commons Select Committee on Foreign Affairs. He was confident that the basis had been formed for an honourable settlement and for independence by the end of the year.

During the three decades that Guatemala has pursued territorial claims to Belize, Britain has offered economic incentives for Guatemala to forego those claims.

Iraq expects new Iranian offensive in the spring

By Richard Owen

Iraq is expecting Iran to launch a spring offensive after the failure of the Islamic peace mission, but is "not unhappy" at the prospect, according to Dr Saadoun Hammadi, the Iraqi Foreign Minister.

Dr Hammadi, who has just ended a two-day visit to London, told *The Times* that Iraq regarded the peace proposals put forward by the Islamic Conference intermediaries last week as "still valid", but did not expect Iran to accept them. He dismissed reports from Tehran that Iran was having second thoughts, saying that "contradictory reactions" were normal in Iran.

Iraq believed that an Iranian attack was "possible", but was ready to launch one of its own. Defeat on the battlefield was probably "the only way to convince Iran" that it should resolve the dispute by peaceful means. One of the most likely targets was Abadan, on the disputed Shatt al-Arab waterway.

Dr Hammadi, who held talks with Mrs Margaret Thatcher, and Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, confirmed

that Iraq had been building up its arms supplies, but declined to say from what sources. "We buy what we need from whoever is willing to provide it, with the sole exception of Israel," he said. He warned Britain and the United States "or the big powers generally" not to resume arms supplies to Iran. Any such move would lead Iraq to "reconsider" its relations with the Western powers.

On bilateral relations, Dr Hammadi told a press conference that Britain and Iraq were close to signing an agreement on economic and technical cooperation. Trade between the two countries rose by 60 per cent last year, and trade contracts worth £175m were signed in the first two months of this year.

He was critical, however, of Britain's support for the EEC initiative on the Middle East, because it balanced the involvement of the Palestinian Liberation Organization in peace talks with the recognition of Israel. Iraq did not intend to "destroy Israel", but could not recognize it in any circumstances.

Strasbourg heading for staff clash

From David Wood

Strasbourg, March 11. Heads of departments at the European Parliament were today ordered to ask their staff to work during a special plenary session here between March 23 and 26. This marks the beginning of a more embittered phase in the parliamentary staffs fight to keep some plenary sessions in Luxembourg, their home base.

The staff voted by a heavy majority to refuse to attend the special session called to discuss the 1981 farm price proposals, although they will work normally in Luxembourg and therefore not forfeit pay. Without consulting the staff, the Parliament's managerial bureau today flatly refused to be dictated to about where plenary sessions should be held. The "requirement" to attend in Strasbourg means that away-at-home staff in Luxembourg will lose their pay for the four sitting days.

Both MEP and the staff union know that the deciding factor in the conflict will be if the interpreters refuse to travel to Strasbourg, as the staff union promises. In such a case, instead of a critical debate on farm prices there would be a chaotic four days of babel and points of order.

Until recently five of 13 sessions each year were held in Luxembourg. MEPs now want to concentrate them in Strasbourg where facilities are considered to be better.

Pinochet rule legitimized

From Florencia Vargas

Santiago, March 11. General Augusto Pinochet was today sworn in for an eight-year term as Chile's constitutional president, and put into effect a new constitution approved by plebiscite in September.

In a speech before the ceremony General Pinochet, who assumed power after overthrowing President Salvador Allende in September, 1973, defended his anti-communist position and said that Chile would resolve its international problems without altering its principles.

The plebiscite, in which the Government won 67 per cent, gave the administration an aspect it did not previously enjoy, a constitutional presidency. General Pinochet will rule Chile for at least eight more years, with an option for another eight-year rule. He will move today to Moneda, the presidential palace and the traditional seat of Chilean governments, which was bombed during the coup.

General Pinochet told the 3,500 guests at the swearing in that the international community should be aware that the strident aggressiveness of some products of Marxists, "does not scare us."

He took his oath before Señor Angel Norberto, president of the Supreme Court, with an image of Christ to his right and the text of the new constitution to his left.

Nevertheless, with the memory of Tracy still lingering, Darwin's residents have become agitated.

One government official said today: "People are going berserk trying to get hold of things, petrol, torches, candles. You could call it panic."

Hundreds flee Darwin as cyclone approaches city

From Douglas Airon

Melbourne, March 11. Hundreds of people are fleeing Darwin, on Australia's north coast, as cyclone Max heads towards the city. Heavy rain began to fall soon after 2 pm, followed by wind gusts that strengthened as the cyclone approached. By the evening, the cyclone had not yet reached Darwin, but the city was gripped by fear, with many people fleeing down the Stuart highway for the outposts of Adelaide River and Katherine.

Emergency services and the armed forces are on full alert and the police have set up check points to help casualties in case of disaster. There was a run on shops to buy masking tape for windows, lanterns and food. Public servants were sent

home from work and schools closed at 11 am.

Cyclone Tracy devastated Darwin on Christmas Day 1974, killing at least 50 people and the city has never recovered.

But so far, cyclone Max does not look as serious as Tracy. The Northern Territory information service said today that cyclone Max was about 100 miles east-north-east of Darwin moving towards the city at 10 miles an hour. It is believed that the winds are about 80 miles an hour which is about half the strength of Tracy.

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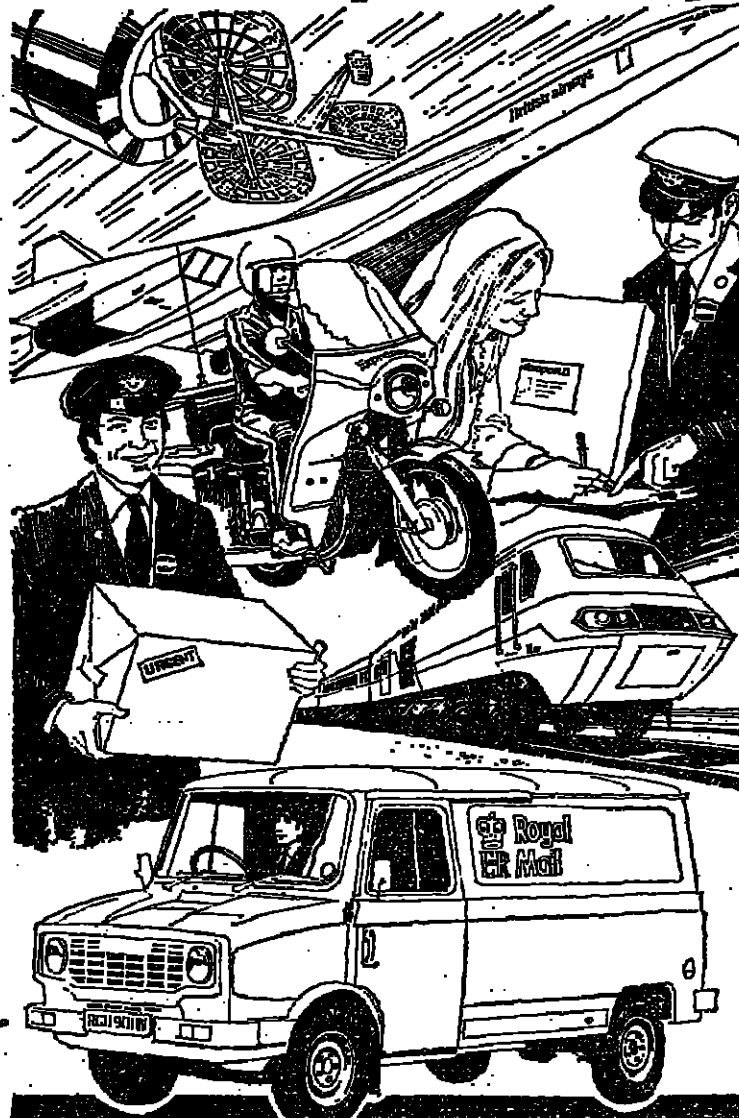
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OVERSEAS

Mr Mintoff rebukes magistrate and 'Times' is banned

From Our Correspondent Valletta, March 11

Mr Dom Mintoff, Prime Minister of Malta, has strongly criticized a magistrate and warned him of possible dismissal over his handling of a case two days ago involving Dr Guido de Marco, deputy leader of the opposition Nationalist Party.

Dr de Marco faced a charge of making false public accusations against Mr Mintoff and leading police officers, and the magistrate, Dr Anton Depasquale, dismissed a police application for the case to proceed with urgency.

Distribution of *The Times* has been stopped from today by order of the Government. Normally 130 copies are distributed daily.

The case against Dr de Marco arises out of a speech he made in which he referred to the arrest of four journalists said to have spread false information in connection with the shooting of a bomb at a group of industrialists.

Dr de Marco is alleged to have falsely accused the Prime Minister, the Commissioner of Police and two police inspectors of improper acts in the administration of government.

In the House of Representatives last night, Mr Mintoff said that if Dr Depasquale conducted proceedings again as he had done in the de Marco case, "we will bring in a resolution and he will have to go".

Dr Joseph Brincat, Minister of Justice, said that Dr Depasquale had made two mistakes. The first was in allowing the

hearing to take place immediately after a demonstration in favour of Dr de Marco had been made in a corridor leading to the court, and the second was in allowing about 20 lawyers to remain standing in court when they had nothing to do with the case.

No sensible person could believe that in such an atmosphere minds could remain calm and a judgment of utmost impartiality pronounced, Dr Brincat said.

In addition, Dr Depasquale had criticized the fact that the government Department of Information had broadcast its application for the case to be treated with urgency before Dr de Marco had been informed of the application. This criticism was without justification, Dr Brincat said.

The news was released as the matter was of unusual public interest. The accused was a Member of Parliament and deputy leader of an opposition party.

Later, the Government Director of Information told this correspondent that *The Times* would continue to be banned so long as it continued to present an unbalanced picture of Malta.

He referred particularly to the coverage in the edition of March 3 of a Nationalist Party meeting held on March 1 when no coverage was given to a Labour Party held the previous day.

Second, *The Times* had failed to carry "for lack of space" a letter of his seeking to correct the imbalance.

Strike plans prepared in another Polish city

Warsaw, March 11.—Tensions in the industrial city of Radom rose today as Solidarity trade unionists, angered by alleged harassment of union members, prepared strike plans hours after talks between the Government and the union defused a labour crisis in Lodz.

A spokesman for the Radom council of Solidarity said a strike alert has been in effect since Monday to press demands for an end to "oppression" of union members, for the dismissal of local officials responsible for alleged attacks on workers there five years ago, and for the release of political prisoners.

The spokesman, reached by telephone from Warsaw, said that factory representatives would meet tomorrow to work out arrangements for new strikes in the area unless the Government agreed to negotiate.

A member of the local leadership of Solidarity said that activists from 337 factories in the region would meet to endorse a list of 17 demands.

Among the demands are the dismissal of provincial police officers and Communist Party officials accused by the Radom Solidarity branch of "slowing

down the renewal" and of responsibility for the suppression of meat price riots in 1976.

The demands also include one for police buildings to be turned into hospitals and schools.

A spokesman said there had been no response so far from the authorities and that the demands had been sent to the Government.

The local branch had not spoken with Mr Lech Walesa, the national leader of Solidarity, who apparently yesterday discussed the situation with General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the Prime Minister.

The Warsaw newspaper *Zycie Warszawy* reported today that Mr Walesa had told the Radom branch that he supported their strike alert, but cautioned against actually calling a strike until negotiations with the Government were held.

Warsaw Pact manoeuvres: The Warsaw Pact nations have not given formal notification to the Western governments under the terms of the 1975 Helsinki agreement, of the big military manoeuvres scheduled to take place in Poland and other parts of Eastern Europe this month.

Mr Peres rules out dismantling Jewish West Bank settlements

From Christopher Walker Jerusalem, March 11

Mr Shimon Peres, leader of Israel's opposition Labour Party, said this week that any future government of which he was Prime Minister, would not agree to dismantle any Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank or the Gaza Strip, even those recently constructed in areas of dense Arab population.

With less than four months to go before the general election, Mr Peres said in an interview with *The Times*: "All the existing settlements will remain where they are. Just as there are Arab settlements under non-Arab administrations, so there may be Jewish settlements under a non-Jewish administration".

Mr Peres, whose party remains favourite to head the next government, made clear that Labour's declared policy of keeping settlements away from areas heavily populated by Palestinians would only apply to those established after June, not to the 35 which will be in place then.

Justifying the controversial decision not to pull down any of the settlements established by the ultra nationalist Gush Emunim group, Mr Peres said forcefully: "Just because a person is an Israeli or a Jew, I do not see why he should lose the right to settle in any particular place".

The Labour pledge not to contemplate dismantling existing settlements is thought to reflect fears among the party leadership that this could lead to internal violence on a level never seen in Israel.

Whatever the reasoning, the party's stand is certain to further reduce the chances of a Labour government achieving its aim of negotiating a territorial compromise with Jordan over the West Bank. It is also likely to hinder its intention of reaching agreement with Egypt and America on the question of Palestinian autonomy.

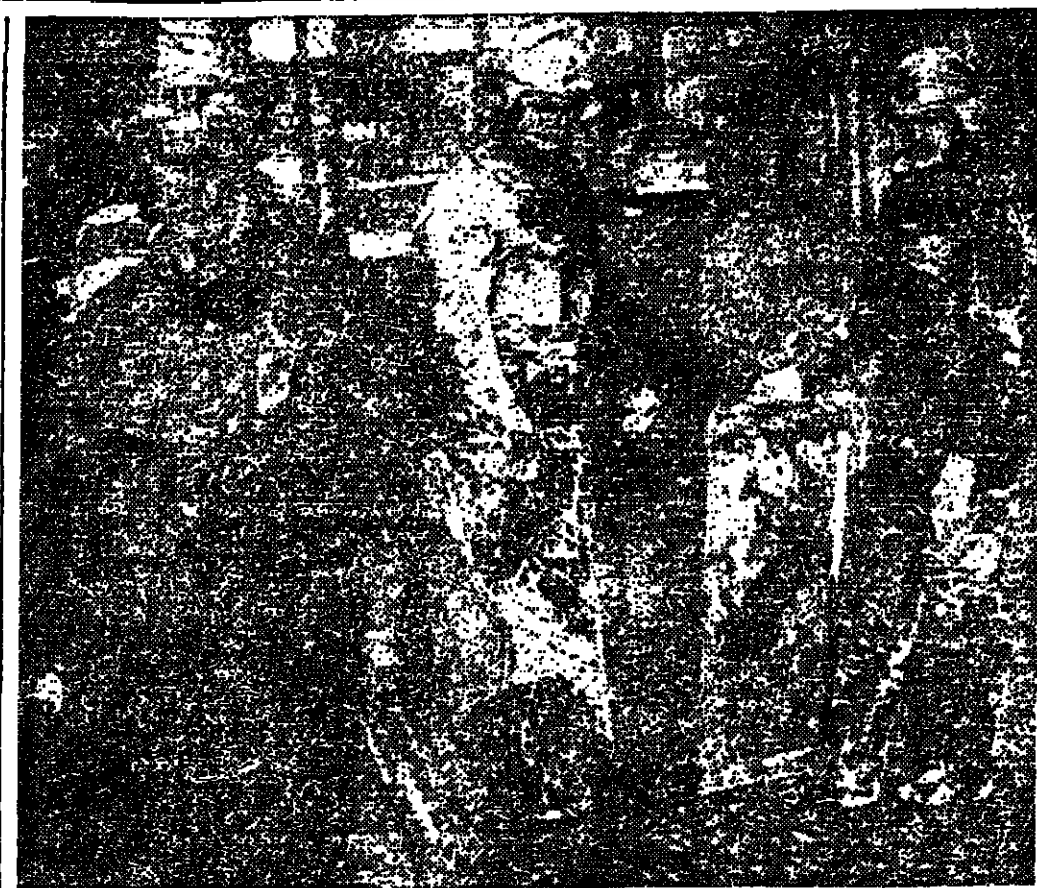
During the interview, Mr Peres said that a Labour administration would continue the much criticized policy of providing Israeli financial and military support for the south against attacks led by Major Saad Haddad.

He also explained that it would insist on maintaining an Israeli presence on the Golan Heights, retaining sovereignty over all of Jerusalem and of the occupied Jordan Valley and the strategic area near Hebron known as the Itzvon Bloc.

The tone of the interview confirmed recent assessments by Western diplomats that the new Israeli government would not necessarily be as flexible as politicians in Europe and America appear to have assumed.

Mr Peres may also have been put on the defensive by the activities of the ruling right-wing coalition, which has made clear that it intends to try and turn alleged Labour "softness" over the West Bank into the central election issue.

Asked how Labour would counter such claims on the hustings, Mr Peres replied: "Politically our answer will be very simple: The way Mr Begin's Government negotiated over Sinai at Camp David was never defined in its platform



Squatters riot: Paint-splattered police in West Berlin after they evicted squatters from two derelict houses in the Kreuzberg district. Later yesterday, demonstrators protesting at the eviction went on the rampage, barricading streets and smashing bank and shop windows. Fire bombs damaged a savings bank and destroyed a lorry.

PLO opens an office in Dublin

From Christopher Thomas Dublin, March 11

The Palestine Liberation Organization, which is believed to have trained with IRA terrorists in the Middle East, is to open an office in Dublin. The two organizations are believed to have retained their links.

The Israeli Embassy in London confirmed that it had made representations to the Irish Foreign Ministry. "Contacts with the PLO, whether in Beirut, Dublin or elsewhere, are not conducive to peace-making in the Middle East, but rather, very damaging to it and are therefore deeply regretted," a spokesman said.

Mr Nabil Ramawi, the director of the PLO office in London, met a cross-section of MPs in the Dail yesterday to explain his aims.

The Foreign Ministry in Dublin said it had no role in the matter because it would be a private office of a private organization. Diplomatic or official status would not be granted.

[The PLO has offices in most European capitals, according to a spokesman in London.] Contacts opposed: The Israeli Embassy in London yesterday issued a strong statement denouncing the reported social contacts between British diplomats in Beirut and members of the PLO.

The statement described such occasions, reported by Robert Fisk in yesterday's issue, as "consorting with assassins".

Traffic problems of Paris drive police to protest

From Charles Hargrove Paris, March 11

Angry French police are staging various forms of protest at having to spend so much of their time trying to cope with the apparently insoluble traffic problems of Paris.

"Every day we hear people tell us: 'I cannot leave my car parked for five minutes without getting a parking ticket. But I am not sure when I get home, that I will not find my front door has been broken open, and my flat ransacked by thieves', M Bernard de la Place, the secretary-general of the Syndicat General de la Police, told a press conference.

"Parking fines are too numerous and too expensive. We must go back ten years to the system of warning tickets. There is a trend of the police towards repression rather than prevention."

No Paris motorist would gain a thing. But there is no obvious way through the problem. Each day 800,000 cars are parked in the capital and there are only 600,000 authorized parking places—leaving 200,000 parked in defiance of the law.

M Jacques Laurent, director of traffic at the Paris prefecture, says the breakdown is: 325,000 private car parks; 45,000 parking meters and parking spaces in places and 200,000 free parking places. Parking fines are steadily

increasing in number, in spite of the penalty having been increased a few months ago, from 50 francs (£4.50) for parking beyond the time limit to 600 francs for parking in a bus lane.

About 1,000 "periwinkles", as the blue uniformed warden traffic wardens are called, and ordinary police issued 5.7 million tickets last year, almost exclusively for parking offences.

It is not a profitable business—this mountain of parking fines brought in a mere 80m francs last year, barely covering the cost of wages, expenses, and uniforms.

This is because only a tenth of the offenders pay on the spot. Tomorrow, traffic wardens and police will distribute fake parking tickets, which look like the regular green ones, but will carry on the reverse side an appeal to motorists to understand the problems of the police and to "demonstrate all together to live and work better in Paris".

Yesterday, about a third of the "periwinkles" went on strike to demand better pay, conditions and retirement at 50 or 55 instead of 65, according to the union.

The regular uniformed police demonstrate on Friday when they carry out a "sit-in" at 700 to 800 gather with their cars under the Eiffel Tower and move in a column on the Ministry of Finance, if they ever get there.

South Africa opposition want rugby tour ban

From Nicholas Ashford Johannesburg, March 11

Rugby has again become an important issue in the white South African election after a call by the opposition Progressive Federal Party (PFP) to cancel a proposed Springbok tour of New Zealand.

The call was made by Mr Dave Dalling, the party's spokesman on sport, who was responding to a statement made at the beginning of this week by Mr Robert Moolenaar, the New Zealand Prime Minister, that he did not want the Springbok team to tour his country.

Mr Dalling said South African rugby players should not go anywhere they were unwelcome and be subjected to the indignity of having to face demonstrations. "The message from New Zealand is loud and clear", he said. "We would be an embarrassment to them."

Such sentiments uttered during an election campaign are bound to provoke a response; and the ruling National Party, which is struggling to project itself as the true protector of white South African values, has leapt into the attack.

Fries of "disgraceful" and "political bigotry" have showered down on Mr Dalling's head. One Nationalist MP accused him of "playing into the hands of forces which aimed at isolating South African sport".

Although white South African leaders like to deny that South Africans are as much about sport as the rest of the world imagines them to be, the way that sporting issues are already dominating the election campaign is an indication of how anxious South Africans are to cut through the tightening noose of the international sports boycott.

Meanwhile, Dr Frederik van Zyl Slabbert, the PFP leader, launched his party's campaign in the Transvaal with a warning to white voters not to succumb to "siege politics" or attempts by right-wingers to raise the spectre of the "black peril" taking over the country.

He said it was necessary to find political and constitutional alternatives which could accommodate all of South Africa's 25 million inhabitants. The best way of achieving this was to hold a national convention of all representative leaders.

The PFP, the most liberal of the six parties contesting the election, is facing an uphill struggle against the present rightward swing among white voters. However, Dr Slabbert said he believed his party could increase its parliamentary representation from 20 to about 24.

World View by Arrigo Levi

The global apostle of democracy

Once again, in the Philippines, a pastoral mission by Pope John Paul II has acquired a powerful political meaning. Everywhere, the Pope "preaches the gospel"; but he always applies his religious principles to the political conditions of the countries he visits, which he judges accordingly without fear, though with wisdom. This has happened everywhere, from Poland to Ireland, from Brazil to the Philippines.

The Pope's political doctrine is founded on the Christian ideal of the equality of all men before God. As God's children all men, everywhere and at all times, have the same natural rights. The Pope firmly rejects violence as an instrument for the achievement of justice, but demands that those who suffer injustice be granted those political rights which are necessary for the achievement of their just aims.

The essential political rights ought to include, wherever the rulers may be—right-wing, left-wing, or communist generals—the formation of free trade unions. In judging between man and state, the Pope rejects those "security doctrines" which claim a priority over human rights. All social organizations must be in the service of man, not the other way around.

If one were to define in one word the Pope's political doctrine, which he preaches to the whole world, the word used could only be—democracy. Knowingly or unknowingly, the Pope who has become the apostle of democracy, the fact that he is also the most charismatic public figure in the world proves the popularity of democratic ideals.

Democratic gospel of the Pope

In many places the Pope's democratic message is seen as having a revolutionary and subversive impact. Our age has known other apostles, from Gandhi to Guevara, but no other message, including that of communism, has such a universal appeal as the Pope's democratic gospel.

Democracy, rather than communism, is the ghost haunting today's world. But democracies flourish and perish, they crumble and are reborn in mysterious ways. As a political system based on controlled, regulated conflicts, democracy is usually in a crisis—and some crises can be fatal.

Democracies meet increasing difficulties today in ensuring the governability of nations. While democracy appeals to all peoples submitted to a totalitarian rule in their thirst for

freedom, the regulation of social conflicts, which surface as soon as democracy prevails, usually proves to be rather difficult. This applies even to old democracies, based upon social contracts which have overcome many historical tests. The explosion of social rights and demands, which is typical of contemporary democracy, overloads the state and nullifies its efforts to satisfy too many clients. This leads to frustration, anger, and anarchic conflicts, which are not easily contained within democratic limits.

Risk of renewed totalitarian rule

Younger democracies—Spain is the most recent example, and Italy is another one—suffer these strains in a dramatic way and risk falling apart, leaving the road open to renewed totalitarian rule.

In spite of these difficulties, the appeal of democracy upon the minds of men is stronger today than it has ever been. I do not mean to be disrespectful if I offer as one proof the fact that even the Roman Catholic Church has become a convert to democracy, which was certainly not the Church's chosen political doctrine for the best part of its history.

It has proved easy for Pope John Paul II and his immediate predecessors to embrace democracy as their creed, because democracy is largely rooted in the Judeo-Christian doctrine of the brotherhood of men. If a Polish pope, who has spent most of his life under communism, has become the greatest apostle of democracy in our time, this only proves that the church has gone back to its deepest Christian origins and principles.

The Pope's message cannot satisfy the impatience of those Christians who have come to believe that a little violence here and there can speed the coming of the existence of a Christian world.

The Pope believes instead that there is no undemocratic system—be it a fascist, military or communist dictatorship—that cannot be converted by peaceful political action into a burgeoning democracy. In his global apostolate, which he has chosen as his papal mission, he acts as midwife of the world's democratic future.

It is an irony of history that nowhere is the rebirth of democracy under so great a threat as in the Pope's native country, where the bearers of his message face the most absolute of all totalitarian states. But, whatever happens in Poland, the Pope's revolutionary, democratic mission will not come to an end. © Times Newspapers Ltd 1981.

Clash over Cabinet post revives allegation that 'northern cabal' controls country

Tribalism prevents creation of one nation in Nigeria

This is the second of a five-part series by Karan Thapar, part one of which appeared yesterday.

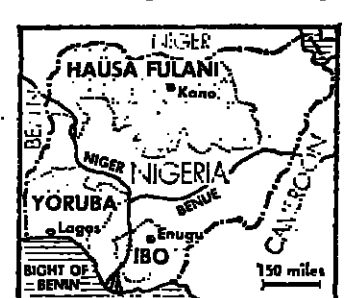
The persisting threat to Nigerian unity is the seemingly ineradicable tribalism that underlies every political, social and economic development. With more than 200 tribes and at least 100 distinct languages, the country is a mosaic of tribal groups. The three main regional population groups, the Hausas, Ibos and Yorubas, and with irresponsible politicians only too happy to exploit ethnic divisions, the country is divided into three main tribal groups. The Unity Party leader, Chief Obafemi Awolowo, has publicly and repeatedly accused the last military head of state, General Olusegun Obasanjo, of carefully contriving to hand over power to the largely northern based National Party. In December, he called on the Chief Justice to resign on the grounds of conspiracy and political bias.

The issue has been raked up by a controversy over remarks by Malam Adamu Ciroma, the Minister of Industries. In a public speech, the Minister, a northern Hausa Muslim, accused the opposition Governor of Borno state of betraying the people's trust by employing public participation in sensitive judicial and Cabinet posts. Referring to the Borno state Chief

Justice, the Chief Secretary and Attorney-General, the Minister called them "strangers" and "foreigners". The point is that they are western Yorubas.

The incident grew out of all proportion. For the Yoruba-based Unity Party, it was conclusive proof for its favourite allegation of a self-perpetuating northern cabal controlling the country to the exclusion of all other tribal groups. The Unity Party leader, Chief Obafemi Awolowo, has publicly and repeatedly accused the last military head of state, General Olusegun Obasanjo, of carefully contriving to hand over power to the largely northern based National Party. In December, he called on the Chief Justice to resign on the grounds of conspiracy and political bias.

Although both General Obasanjo and Chief Justice Fatayi Williams are Yoruba, they are created by the Unity Party as traitors and "time-servers" of the northern elite. For Malam Ciroma's own



The three main tribal areas.

National Party, the provocation of a Unity Party attack was sufficient for a strong rally to his defence. He defiantly repeated his earlier criticisms, in turn accusing the Unity Party of tribal bias for supporting only Yorubas. And while the opposition called on President Shagari to dismiss Malam Ciroma, the press hinted darkly at the possibility of another civil war.

The problem is that a Nigerian identity does not as yet fully exist. A Nigerian is first a Hausa, or an Ibo, or a

Yoruba, and when the chips are down it is only tribal and ethnic loyalties that stand the test. In a very important sense, the 1979 electoral results, when after 13 years of military rule, four coups and three years of civil war, a return to civilian rule was being attempted, showed that tribal affiliations still correspond closely with tribal affiliation and loyalty.

The three main parties, each of which won at least three of the 19 states, did best in their tribal strongholds. The Unity Party swept the five states of Yorubaland. The Ibo-based Nigerian Peoples Party was almost unopposed in Imo and Anambra states.

Even the ruling National Party, whose presidential candidate won the election, has two states in the deep south-east, got 80 per cent of its winning vote from the north. The fact that a northerner and a largely northern party were elected to power has ensured that since the election the so-called democratic opposition runs close to tribal lines of conflict.

Although as a consequence of the last civil war the new federal Constitution contains an unequivocal clause demanding the "reflection of the federal character in all spheres of government activity", this policy, designed to ensure equal representation to all tribes and groups in government offices and state companies, is itself a victim of its own implications. For, when this means the replacement of Yorubas in Lagos offices by Hausas, hitherto considered backward and frequently relegated, it stirs new tribal fears among the Yorubas. They see their Hausa replacements as the thin end of a northern wedge; as the beginning of political pay-off to the men around the northern President.

The irony is that whilst the strict impartiality of military dictatorship held the country united in its grip, the democratic tolerance and leniency of civilian rule has threatened the fabric of nationhood because it allows the disparate strands to come slowly apart.

Next: Civil war's legacy

TB and malaria rife among Afghans in Pakistan

From Alan McGregor Geneva, March 11

Tuberculosis is threatening the 1,700,000 Afghan refugees living in tents in Pakistan's Baluchistan and North-West Frontier provinces, being prevalent among the 500,000 or so who crossed the frontier during the severe winter.

Mr Roman Kabaut, in charge of the United Nations refugee programme in Pakistan, said today that malaria was also 10 to 15 times more prevalent among the refugees than in the local population.

He said most of the refugees were having to continue living in tents supplied by the United Nations.

Nations—100,000 of them last year—because of the local population's objections to their building themselves mud houses, indicating a more permanent residence.

He denied reports of widespread removal of tents across the frontier into Afghanistan. A count this month showed no more than 10 per cent had been moved.

The 1981 United Nations aid budget of \$31m (£23m) would have to be at least doubled, partly because of the Pakistan Government's decision to stop, as from January 1, bearing the cost of internal transport of supplies to refugee areas.

EEC summit and French presidential election hold key to fisheries deadlock

From Michael Hornsby Brussels, March 11

The breakdown early today of the latest attempt to resolve the intractable dispute over EEC fisheries policy almost certainly means that any hope of agreement must be ruled out until after the French presidential elections in April and early May.

The only chance of breaking the deadlock before then would seem to rest in the hands of the EEC heads of government who hold their spring summit meeting in Maastricht on March 23 and 24. They alone could generate the political momentum to overcome the remaining obstacles out of the way.

President Giscard d'Estaing, however, is being assailed by the Gaullist presidential candidate, M. Jacques Chirac, for weakness in foreign policy and especially for "endless surrender" to British demands on the EEC budget and other matters. So he is more likely to be in a complaining than a forgiving mood.

Mr Margaret Thatcher can also expect sharp words from Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, whose fishermen are outraged by Britain's refusal to approve an EEC fisheries agreement with Canada so long as the internal Community dispute remains unresolved.

As a result, German trawlers may shut out from rich cod fishing grounds off Labrador. The Bonn Cabinet, at its weekly meeting, today announced about 25.5m of transitional aid for German fishermen pending agreement on a new EEC fisheries policy.

A veiled threat yesterday by Herr Josef Ertl, the German Agricultural Minister, that this money might have to be deducted from West Germany's contribution to the financing of the British EEC budget rebates, was not confirmed today by officials in Bonn.

Nevertheless, Herr Schmidt is likely to remind Mrs Thatcher of the link that he and others thought had been established between last May's settlement of the budget issue and an early solution to the long-running fisheries dispute.

The latest failure in the fish negotiations should not, however, be allowed to obscure the distance which Britain and France, the chief protagonists, have come to share each other's point of view in a dispute which could be said to have begun the day Britain joined the EEC.

The only exemption Britain secured from the principle was the right to reserve mainly for itself fishing within six miles—in particularly sensitive areas, 12 miles—of the coast. But unless renewed or replaced, this exemption will expire at the end of 1982.

This deal did not look so bad when fish were plentiful and EEC boats could still travel at will in the rich fishing grounds of Iceland and other non-Community countries; but as state after state pushed out its fishing limits to 200 miles, British fishermen became much more dependent on their livelihood on North Sea stocks.

Since about 60 per cent of the fish caught in the EEC's 200-mile "pond" is taken in the waters around Britain, the British feel they should get the main share of the total catch. They will probably settle for the share of about 36 per cent that they are now being offered.

To ensure they actually catch this share, the British insist on strict controls on the access of foreign boats to waters immediately adjacent to their coast. They say that within 12 miles, all foreign vessels should be excluded if they cannot prove a historic claim or vital economic need to fish there.

Japanese think it bad form to take holiday from work

From Peter Hazelhurst Tokyo, March 11

British managers may be plagued by worker absenteeism; but Japanese industrialists are confronted with persuading their workers to take more of their paid holidays.

With criticism in the West that Japanese work too hard, the Toyota Motor Company, the world's second largest car manufacturer, has just launched a campaign to persuade its 45,233 workers to spend less of their paid holidays at work.

The idea was mooted after European car makers claimed Japan had captured large sectors of the world market because its workers were "workaholics". The Japanese are required to work only the same number of days a year as their German counterparts, according to a survey by Toyota and other manufacturers.

Mr Kouji Yada, a company spokesman, said: "We have asked the company's trade union to persuade our workers to take off more days of their paid holiday."

"We are encouraging them to give us advance notice if they want to take off a few days at a time so we can rearrange the work schedule; but this is a difficult problem because Japanese usually take their leave only when it's absolutely necessary."

Toyota workers are entitled to between 12 and 20 days' paid holiday a year, but on average, they take only 60 per cent of that leave. Many other company workers only take a few days' holiday a year.

By custom, it would be considered a social error for a worker to take his full holiday entitlement, a step which could isolate him from his colleagues or even raise doubts about his loyalty to the company.

"We really want to persuade them to take more time off", Mr Yada said. But Japanese newspapers believe that Toyota will find it uphill going.

A respected economic journal said: "Some experts already have doubts as to whether the company will achieve its aims because the people from Mikawa district who are employed as

plant personnel have from ancient times been known as faithful workers."

An official in the Ministry of Labour said: "Most Japanese do not take their full holiday because they worry they would let the side down by placing an extra load on their co-workers."

Toyota has had no industrial unrest for 31 years.

In return for hard work most workers are assured of lifetime employment, and Japan can now boast the lowest rate of unemployment among industrialized nations.

THE ARTS

Peter Firth makes another shot at elusive stardom

Fully eight years after he first made his name as the boy chunder of horses in Shaffer's *Equus* at the National Theatre, Peter Firth makes a second bid for stardom playing the conflict-ridden husband of Tess in Roman Polanski's screen version of the Hardy novel opening in London on April 9.

This is not of course the first dramatization of *Tess*: there was a silent-screen version with Blanche Sweet and Conrad Nagel back in 1924, and after the war Wendy Hiller confirmed her stage reputation with a production at the Bristol Old Vic. But the new film is already up for no less than six Oscars (including that of Best Picture) and there are those in America who believe it will go some way towards restoring a reputation Polanski lost there a few years back with a distinctly unsavoury morals charge. Indeed the Los Angeles Police Department made it clear that if Polanski, once less than charitably described by Ken Tynan as the five-foot Pole who wouldn't touch anybody with sets foot on American soil in pursuit of his Oscar, they would arrest him, and even if he comes to this country he is liable for extradition, which is why Mr Firth was summoned to make the picture in France.

"I think the film is Roman's attempt to prove he's really a jolly nice chap and no longer inclined to accost young girls; it's dedicated to his murdered wife Sharon Tate whose idea this apparently was, but the making of it took 15 months and if you wrote it as a gothic novel nobody would believe you."

Before we get to that, however, we had better recap briefly on that first *Tess*. Born in Bradford in 1953, the only son of a now retired publican, he left school at 15 without a single O level.

"I was in the lowest possible class, stamped as factory fodder, doomed to be a plumber or, if it was really lucky, an electrician. Schoolteachers had given up on me and I'd more or less given up on school when suddenly one of the teachers happened to mention Saturday-morning classes at the Bradford Civic. From there I began to get work in the holidays as an extra for Yorkshire Television, and when they were casting a kids' serial called *The Fluxus Boys* somebody remembered me. It meant getting three months off school, so I went along to the headmaster pre-



Firth as Angel in *Tess*... "some sort of travelling circus"

tending that I loved school and was sorry to miss it and would of course return as soon as the shooting was over and he let me go, though I knew I'd never be back.

At 17 I came to London, found myself an agent, got a bit-part in Zeffirelli's disastrous *Brother Sun Sister Moon* and then quite a lot of television jobs, one of which was seen by John Dexter, who was casting *Equus*. I was 19, did ten auditions and got the part, not having the faintest idea what the play was really about except that I seemed to talk a lot, which was good. I don't think anybody but Dexter knew what he had there, at least not until we heard the applause on the first night.

I stayed with the National company to do *Spring Awakening* and *Romeo and Juliet* but then I got the chance to play *Equus* on Broadway and took it, and somehow the National have never quite forgiven that. It's like leaving school early

all over again. Somehow you no longer belong, and when you try to rejoin they make it very difficult; the last offer I got from there a few weeks ago was to play some very minor role in *Galileo* and somehow I'd rather be out of work than go back to the beginning all over again. Which probably explains why I've been out of work since we finished *Tess* a year ago.

In New York for a while I was the flavour of the month and it was all lovely, but then I made the mistake of going back there after *Equus* had closed and suddenly I couldn't get a table at Sardi's and nobody knew who I was. I was the only time to be in New York is if you have a bit. When I no longer did, I went off to Texas to make a film called *When You Come Back Red Rider* which was either a total disaster or a tax loss made the way some Americans make films, not for cinemas but to look good in the year's accounts. I

think it was somebody's idea of a tax dodge. Anyway, while I was there the phone rang and it was Polanski saying "Come to lunch in Paris" so I went, and there were a lot of guys in dark glasses and black cashmere overcoats and nobody mentioned a film or a job for about four hours until the coffee came and Roman said "OK, *Tess* of the d'Urbervilles, you husband, start two weeks and that was how we went on for the next year."

"I rushed out and bought the paperback, then discovered I'd joined some sort of travelling circus. There was Roman, me, Nastassia Kinski, who plays Tess, Leigh Lawson who's the other man in her life, all these guys in dark glasses and a lot of trailers. We'd start off up against a hedge somewhere in Brittany in the pouring rain and by about lunchtime Roman would shriek "No, wrong" and we'd all pile back into the trailers and drive for about four

hundred miles to some other French hedge looking much the same as the first one.

"What Roman most enjoyed was playing all the parts himself, so about three seconds into every take he'd call "Cut" and then line us all up behind the camera while he leapt around playing all the parts quite appallingly. He's dreadfully totally self-obsessed, loony, very funny, unable to sustain a line of thought for more than ten seconds, so from hour to hour you have no real idea of who you are supposed to be playing.

"He sees life as a series of props for making films; actors are herded around like inconvenient cattle, and what he really wants is an audience. But the men in the black cashmere coats kept signing the cheques, and after about a year we had made a film; looking back I'd not have missed it, which is not to say I'd ever work for Polanski

again. Life really is too short to make two films with him."

Firth's problem now is that people think he is either in America or too grand for the kind of routine stage and television work which an English actor of 28 ought to be cutting his teeth on.

"Except for a couple of television I've been out of work for a long time, and with a wife and a baby and a mortgage in Little Venice that is not a very good thing to be. I got up to a level which was far too high for too soon, and it's difficult to work back up there again. The National think I should never have left, the RSC don't seem to know I exist, and apart from *Tess* the best I did in films was an Oscar nomination for *Equus* which wasn't exactly the kind of cheerful movie you'd take your girl to on a Saturday night. We made it in Canada after the Broadway run, with Burton as the psychiatrist which was a fair old contrast after Alec McCowen. There Richard was with the Rolls and the Gucci suit having to crawl around on his hands and knees and not caring for it a lot. The limousines and the fur coats had somehow overtaken his acting."

The film did, however, get Firth as far as Hollywood: "They gave me two weeks there when they thought I might be going to win the Oscar, two weeks doing 10 radio and television interviews per day, and then the actual ceremony when you sit there feeling like a prat in a dinner jacket and they announce it's going to Jason Roberts so within eight hours you're back on the plane to London feeling sheepish."

"The trouble with America is that Los Angeles is no place for an actor and New York is no place for a baby, which means I'll be staying right here for a while. But the danger is that when you don't work for a long time your confidence starts toebb; you need other people to invest confidence in you."

Meanwhile, Firth awaits the outcome of *Tess*: "Like the book it's long, thick and very beautiful. The amazing thing that has happened to it in America, where they have an average attention span of about seven seconds, is success. I'd already had one costume designer playing the title role in Richardson's *Joseph Andrews*; I couldn't have afforded another."

Sheridan Morley

Edison/Davis

Ronnie Scott's

Richard Williams

Rhythmic impact is the quality which unites the playing of Harry "Sweets" Edison, the illustrious trumpeter who has spent many years hidden away in the Hollywood studios, and Eddie "Lockjaw" Davis, that toughest of tenor saxophonists and a sometime mainstay of the postwar Basie band.

Both of them, with the cunning of experience, enjoy doodling with an idea, apparently aimlessly, until they will suddenly hit a big note right on the nose; masters of this effect, as these are, can use it to life the performance of an entire band to another level.

They share, too, a playful ebullience. Edison enjoys putting a phrase into a wild skid and then seeing how he can extricate himself, while Davis, who gets more sly as the years pass, will open a solo with an entire chorus of sidelong coasting before gradually increasing the pressure, defining more

clearly the profile of his phrases, and allowing a rasp to creep into his tone.

Even their modest arrangements of tunes like "What Is This Thing Called Love?" or "Bye Bye Blackbird" are world hearing, for their laconic, enigmatic quality and for the perfect blend of the horns' strong timbres.

Their current London season finds them accompanied by a British trio of perfectly appropriate temperament. Eddie Thompson, the pianist, matches the Americans with a forthright and musically humourous, and the bassist, Len Skeet, and the drummer, Jim Hall, provide exactly the right kind of ever driving beat at the medium tempos which Edison and Davis prefer.

Hall, a new name to the per forms with particular acuteness and distinction, leaving an unhampered path for the soloists and making sensible use of his four-bar exchanges. Skeet's duets with Edison's tightly muted trumpet are equally fine, and that which closes "Black Bird" on Tuesday night was a miraculous example of relaxing high tension with immaculate control, ending in a rap pianissimo.

Ancient and Modern

BBC 2

Miles Kingston

If I had no idea who Malcolm Muggeridge was and saw him now for the first time, I think I should take him for one of our great acting knights—Gielgud, Richardson, one of that lot. His snowy presence is so assured; the pauses are so well managed; the eyes are so full of humour and meaning; his features work so hard before pouring forth a sentence, like an intelligent cement mixer. And in one sense he always has been an actor, not just because he has found a role and stuck to it, but also because he has spent so much of his life doing the scripts of other people: the *Manchester Guardian*, the *Ministry of Information*, *Mit*, the *Telegraph*, *Punch*. God, yet he has always been at his best when doing his one-man show, the importance of being *Muggeridge*, and last night was no exception; nothing that the old film footage could offer was near as good as modern Muggeridge chatting away, apparently oblivious to the camera but of course fully conscious of it the whole time.

Some of the film was worth its place notably part of Granada interview from 1960

with Mosley, but when Muggeridge said that most history was absolute rubbish meaning high-mindedness he could equal well have been talking about history on film. All those shots of Mosley ranting, Hitler glaring, de Gaulle parading handsome in an army cap, a waste of time when we could have had more of him, today talking. His long stint in Low enco Marques as a spy was mentioned in passing; his brief experience in the Far East in post Liberation days were well covered.

What was it he said about Orwell? "A clever chap, who would come out sometimes with the most extraordinary propositions. He would say 'You know, all the baccos are fascists. And he could be so convincing, we would all say, yes, of course. Later you would think how preposterous! And yet I do not know when he was right, for he was alone in their kiosk, dealing out tobacco to the world, I might be the perfect seedbed for fascism. . . . A clever chap Muggeridge, who always comes out with statements against everything, but hardly ever a statement for anything. And yet he always seems right at the time. You cannot help warming to a man who finishes a programme by talking about how he is condemned to wait through the vale of tears and groans with laughter at the very thought."

Twisted Cues and Elliptical Balls Arts Theatre

Irving Wardle

Should the *Life of Brian* team be considering Gilbert and Sullivan as their next hysterical cult target, they had better abandon the idea. This show has done the job. Before the first word of Tuesday's performance, the audience had sprung twice to their feet for the National Anthem, and at the end of the piece were waving little paper flags at the parked order of "Basingstoke" and roaring the chorus of "He's an Englishman" under the direction of a John Bull-like figure in a Victorian bathing costume with a Union Jack stitched into the seat.

This is John Judd, the deviser and principal performer in a show which arrives at the Arts bursting with health and strength from its previous conquests. Mr Judd does everything, from playing the piano and dress up as Queen Victoria, these being the task of Paul Knight, who also appears briefly as Iolanthe in a tuxedo, before edging back to the small, one-man show, ramping into the next number in a gas mask.

During the evening, Mr Judd carries his way through the Savoy repertory from *Trilby* by *Jury to The Mikado*, always coming on in full costume and sporting extras such as a hulk of an animal, a parrot for the King of the Pirates; thus giving his partner the time for generous solo selections from *Princess Ida* and *Ruddiger*, while he is off stage. He also tops up on cast officials, harem eunuchs and vulgar Americans identified by their star-spangled toppers and sausage-sized cigars; not to mention impersonating the two heroes—Sullivan and Gilbert—on one side of the stage and Gilbert being rude to the world in general on the other.

But his main character is that of Alfred Kettle, stage doorman of the Savoy, getting a taste of his life to himself. If this had happened during the subjects' lifetimes, it might have put paid to the partnership even sooner than Sullivan wanted. Into the carriage trade's favourite diversion shop, Kettle barges in, steam practically hissing out of his ears, as an overbearing embodiment of British good cheer. Sullivan, he says, put all his thoughts in a diary "what a great chance to get one on in bums, bosoms, and briefs eludes his sweaty grip; and as for the pianist, he really does scintillate; ask him nicely and he will sin till his eyes."

Even for the disenfranchised D'Oyly Carte public, I would have thought this collection between parlour entertainment and heavy old music hall would have been fatal. But Mr Judd plainly knows what he is doing. When he chooses, he acts well (this Sullivan is a fine study of disreputable talent), and he handles the numbers with ample resonance and an impressive turn of speed.

Martin Huckerby

The Cunning Little Vixen Dominion

Paul Griffiths

Welsh National Opera return to London this week for a second miniature festival sponsored by Amoco, whose increasingly precious commodity is increasingly lubricating the wheels of operatic finance. Indeed, this week's first offering, *The Cunning Little Vixen*, comes in a joint Welsh-Scottish production partly paid for by Amoco, and they may well bask in the reflected glory of so much generosity, life and beauty presented on stage and in the pit.

David Pountney, the producer, has realized that the meeting ground for the animal humans and human animals of Janáček's fable must be in play and in delicate acrobatics. The opera's anthropomorphism is simply accepted, without any embarrassment or sentimentality, and the forest and farmyard creatures are evoked with the vividness of the best children's fiction, with details of movement and costume that merge human into animal. This bright vision is enhanced by Maria Björnsdottir's designs, which, like much medieval or Japanese art, depict a magical, perfect natural world, an inviting adventure playground.

By contrast the human characters are boxed into a

small part of the stage and dressed uniformly in grey, which is perhaps an obvious metaphor for their repression, but apt in the context of an appealingly straightforward treatment. Their visual downness does have the advantage, too, of obliging them to act wholeheartedly with their voices.

Philip Joll is a large-spirited Forester, filled with the right mixture of warmth and regret, and Nigel Douglas catches the withered Schoolmaster with his speech-song that only grudgingly relaxes into melody. There are also sharp performances from David Gwynne as the Parson and Geoffrey Moses as the Poacher.

The woodland cast is led by Helen Field, who sings with bright voice and quick of movement, capturing the capriciousness that makes it possible for Janáček to show her as both fox and modern miss. Her consort is sung by Arthur Davies, whose unaffected Italianate tenor is a splendid vehicle for lupine sensuality, and there is a nice grisly cross-cast Badger from Julian Hoyle.

It would not be so were it not also for the glorious orchestral performance under Richard Armstrong. The many strange details of scoring are all made as vibrant and natural as the colours on stage, and the orchestra never fails to become fresh, strong images of lustrous winter and spring's green bounty.

John O'Connor

Queen Elizabeth Hall

William Moan

Dublin friends have spoken with respect and enthusiasm of John O'Connor as an interpreter of Beethoven's piano music. His recital on Tuesday on London's South Bank provided a welcome opportunity to hear for oneself, since his programme was devoted to that composer, and with two of the most popular and nicknamed sonatas he was vouchsafed an ample audience.

His seriousness as a Beethovenian was attested by the inclusion of the six Bagatelles, up 123, marvellous, searching, elegant poems from Beethoven's later years, seldom played in concerts, perhaps because each requires force, concentration, and the immediate rewards are not obvious.

The *Pedagogic Sonata*, at the outset of the evening, disclosed the pianist's firm attack, agile technique, and abundant spirit. He is not a flashy virtuoso, though a rich variety of keyboard colour was there to be

enjoyed whenever apt to the occasion; Beethoven's heavy chording in bass registers can easily sound thick on a modern grand piano, but never did in this recital, rather harmonious and darkly glowing. In the famous slow movement, on the other hand, he was too sparing of a cantabile tone, and the gravely beautiful melody suffered accordingly. Yet the slow Bagatelles were endearingly projected, likewise the lilting G minor Andante from the op. 79 sonata, which was his encore.

When a pianist places the *Waldstein Sonata* last in a programme, one may expect something special. O'Connor did not attempt Beethoven's curious but deliberate pedal effect for the Rondo theme, nor the glissando octaves, which he fingered nimbly, and he eschewed the heartfelt accents in the slow introduction, though they would have given the music exactly the emotional lift that was missing.

He suffered a near-lapse of memory at the start of the *Waldstein*, and there were others, as well as minor slips of the fingers. "We are not machines," thundered Mark Hambourg, when something similar was pointed out to him.

Royal Ballet

Covent Garden

John Percival

I have news for the Royal Ballet. The cast list for Tuesday's revival of *Daphnis and Chloe* at Covent Garden described Lykion as a young unmarried girl from the town. If they care to look in Longus's novel on which the ballet is based, they will discover that the whole point of her presence is that she is a married woman and consequently able to complete young Daphnis's knowledge (foddily incomplete for a goat-

herd) of the anatomy of love. Actually, if they merely cast their minds back to past performances they might have got the point. Then they would have been content with Marguerite Porter's mimsy account of the role. If she knew what it was about, she certainly was not letting on.

Julian Hosking as Dorkon gave an equally flimsy performance. Then they would have been content with a dark wig and a bronzed, moustachioed maquillage to convey the macho forcefulness of the character, and Hosking's dancing lacked both weight and fire. Derek Rencher's Pan was another example of under-casting: such a tottery rescuer

he made for the kidnapped heroine.

Even Merle Park and Anthony Dowell are no longer so well suited as before to the title parts: the authority he won during his defecting in America sits oddly on Daphnis's naivety, and Park, although still the best of the Covent Garden ballerinas, is not exactly a bright young thing. All the same, the style of their dancing cannot be faulted.

Thank heaven for the vigour and dramatic flair which Stephen Jefferys brought to the part of Bryaxis, the pirate chief; but even my pleasure in that was dampened by the thought of how much more

valuable his unique sense of conviction might have been in either of the other male leads.

John Craxton's designs wear well, and the Covent Garden orchestra gave a decently creditable reading of Ravel's marvellous score under Ashley Lawrence's direction, even if not one to set the blood racing. It is strange to remember that Ashton's choreography and whole concept of the production came in, for much condemnation when first given 30 years ago. Now it is recognized as one of the landmarks of the Royal Ballet's repertory, even though most of the roles are less well played than they were in 1951.

Another of Ashton's timeless successes was also revived on this programme: *Façaide*, which celebrates its half-century next month, just a few days before the company's own birthday.

As the debutant and the day (there's a period touch already), Park and Dowell tangoed with infectious humour: not the least whisper of a complaint about this casting. Also notable in an exuberant cast was the eager innocence of the Misses Groombridge, Howe, Taphouse and Wyld in their wallflower waltz. MacMillan's gripping *My Brother, My Sisters* provided the programme's sombre centrepiece; more about that later.

Ballet Rambert

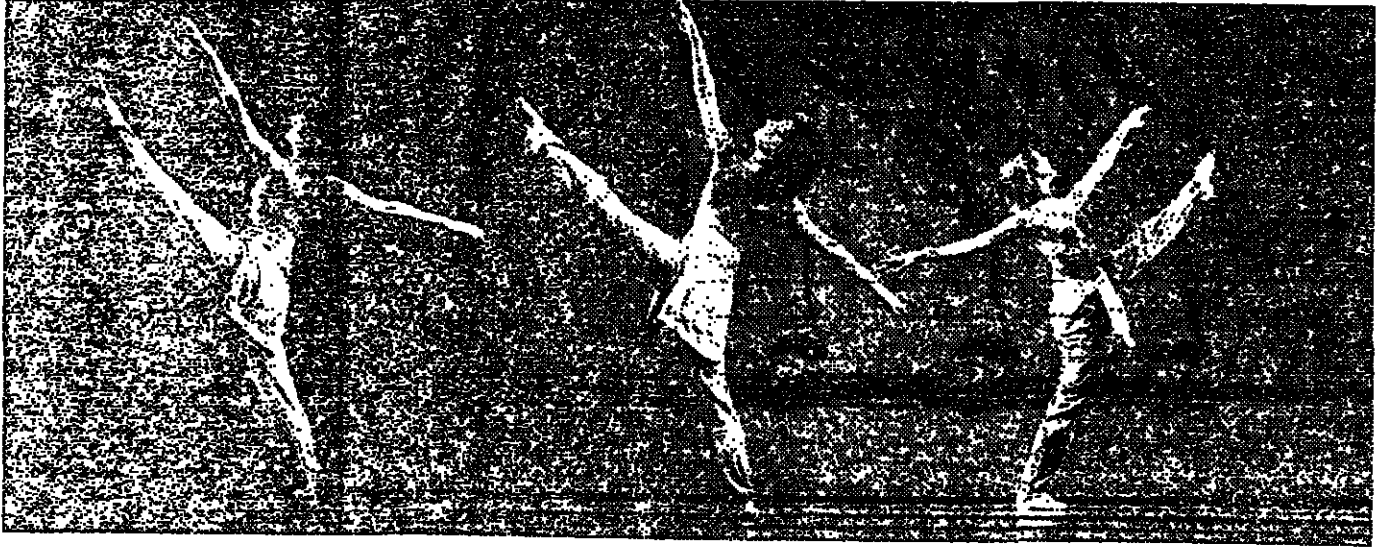
Sadler's Wells

Judith Cruickshank

The second programme in Ballet Rambert's season at Sadler's Wells has already been reviewed in these pages at its Oxford premiere, and a second viewing makes both its faults and its virtues more apparent. Christopher Bruce's *Preludes* and Song to Anthony Hymans's specially commissioned score of the same name, yearns vaguely and pleasantly enough without really getting very far.

By contrast Richard Alston's *Rainbow Ripples* seems a model of organization and structure. Alston has found some really interesting and inventive movement for his dancers, who give every appearance of enjoying what he has set for them. All the cast dance well, but a young man, whom I take to be Michael Clark, deserves special commendation as do David Buckler's fresh and witty designs.

Two works by Antony Tudor made up the rest of the pro-



Cathrine Price, Catherine Becque and Rebecca Ham in *Rainbow Ripples*

gramme, and these alone would have made the evening worthwhile. The neglect of this choreographer's work in this country is a continuing scandal. Judgment of *Puris* dates from 1938 and transfers the beauty contest between the three goddesses to a seedy Berlin nightclub.

Tuesday's cast performed wittily enough, but rather on the level of a cabaret sketch and oddly, especially for a company like Rambert, chose to ignore the serious undertones—the degradation of both the women and their customer, well played by Paul Melis.

Melis also stood out among the cast of *Dark Elegies*, which Rambert brought back into its repertory shortly before the Royal Ballet staged it. Rightly or wrongly, I must admit to preferring the Rambert version, which seems both stronger and more detailed. Neither company deserves much congratulation for the standard of musical performance however.

Outstanding in Tuesday's cast was Quamy Sacku in the fourth song; she knows what it's about and how to express it. Sally Owen was also good in the difficult first song, and of the men Melis made the best impression in the *pas de deux*.

possible by sponsorship, currently from the Hog Robinson group. The result has enabled the chorus to branch out into more adventurous repertoire and it is now planning a concert series in the new Barbican Arts Centre next year.

The subscription selling scheme developed by the American publicist Danny Newman has achieved a success: the Churchill Theatre at Bromley, which was becoming a white elephant as audiences failed to materialize, has raised its average audience from 50 per cent to 85 per cent in its first season, a bargain for its first season. For its spring and summer season it has sold nearly twice as many season tickets as the first time, suggesting that full houses could soon be the norm at Bromley rather than a rarity.

NOT TO BE MISSED: After last year's successful revival of Joe Orton's *Loat*, Kenneth Williams directs another Orton work, *Entertaining Mr Sloane*, with Barbara Windsor and Dave King in the cast. It opens next Wednesday at the Lyric, Hammersmith.

Arts agenda

After years of demonstrating what a vast number of enthusiastic amateurs can do to one great British musical tradition, with the performances of Messiaen from Scratch, the organizers of the concerts, the Tuesday Partnership, have decided to take on Gilbert and Sullivan.

Singing Messiaen without rehearsal started in 1974, when some music-loving scientists at Imperial College invited members of the public, who fancied singing or playing an instrument at the Albert Hall, to turn up and have a go at Handel's oratorio. An orchestra of 250 and a chorus of 2,000 proceeded to do just that—making up in volume what they lacked in precision.

Since then the number of participants has grown and so has the enthusiasm. Thus the organizers are branching out, and on May 29 they aim to gather 4,500 singers to perform *The Pirates of Penzance*, without rehearsal. It will undoubtedly offer a new musical experience: try to imagine 1,500 pirates singing with "catlike tread".

Moreover, the organizer's also want to revive the pre-war Albert Hall tradition of

"appropriate" costume for choral singers. They are inviting performers in *Pirates* to dress as Victorian ladies, policemen or fully-equipped pirates, which should give London one of its largest-ever fancy-dress parties.

John Irvin's debut as a feature film director with *The Dogs of War* did not gain universal approval from the critics, but he now seems to have joined the long line of British directors welcomed into the bosom of Hollywood.

Irvin, who made the television series *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy*, is at present in New England shooting *Ghost Story*, a film based on an American best seller about a quarter of a century old whose past comes back to haunt them. The cast is a roster of Hollywood veterans: Faye Dunaway, John Huston, Douglas and John Houseman. Then, next year, he is already set to direct a film of the Caribbean love story by Jean Rhys, *Wide Sargasso Sea*.

Stephen Sondheim's musical *Sweeney Todd*, despite collecting a cluster of awards, will be remembered in Britain as a financial disaster. Yet it was originally presented in

America as a "popular" follow-up to Sondheim's *Pacific Overtures*, which had been a box-office failure on Broadway. In such circumstances the decision of the Mermaid Theatre to stage the British premiere of *Pacific Overtures*, next spring looks an act of some irreparability.

There is little doubt about the quality of the work, which portrays the sudden impact of the West on nineteenth-century Japan; it won immense critical acclaim for its revolutionary approach—close to opera as to the traditional musical, with a performing style loosely based on Kabuki theatre. But, as Bernard Miles, the founder of the Mermaid, points out: "There is no star in it, no 'convincing line' yet he still convinced that the audience will be attracted."

Fitting it into the newly enlarged, but still small, auditorium of the Mermaid will present difficulties: there is, for instance, no orchestra pit. However, Lord Miles feels it will work, perhaps more successfully than *Sweeney Todd* did in a very large theatre. To finance the undertaking, the Mermaid is seeking sponsors for the production and it

hopes that Hal Prince, who staged the work in New York, will be able to direct it.

Sir Charles Mackerras will be returning to his home town of Sydney on a regular basis from next year as the new chief conductor of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, in which he played as principal oboe in the 1940s. Replacing Louis Frémaux, who becomes principal guest conductor.

Sir Charles will be spending four months in Australia each summer for at least three years.

An unusual reversal of roles has been quietly taking place in the chorus world, with the London Symphony Chorus becoming, albeit only occasionally, the paymaster of the London Symphony Orchestra.

Started as an appendage to the professional orchestras, amateur choruses like the London Symphony have grown in stature, adding outside engagements away from their parent orchestras. The Philharmonia Chorus, for instance, now performs all over the world (it is singing tonight in Barcelona). The London Symphony Chorus has gone a stage farther and begun to hire the LSO for its own concerts, which are made

WITTE THEATRE
DEAL SEVEN
PRESENT LAUGHTER
THANK YOU DARING
for a wonderful evening

Mr. Sussex, who farms fifty acres in East Devon, had an unforgettable Bank Holiday Monday.

In the small hours of the morning he played host to a few unexpected guests.

Altogether about fifteen members of the Cullompton Fire Brigade attended.

When they arrived, Mr. Sussex's home was ablaze. When they left, at eight o'clock in the morning, it was in ruins and in spite of all their gallant efforts Mr. Sussex, his wife and four children were homeless.

Which was something that could

not be said about the rest of Mr. Sussex's dependants; his herd of pedigree Friesians.

They were still perfectly at home in their pastures and as much in need of Mr. Sussex's constant attentions as ever.

A fact that was not lost on the loss adjuster we put in charge of the case.

He gave up his Bank Holiday afternoon to visit the Sussex's at what was left of their farmhouse.

There and then he declared the farmhouse a write-off and agreed to pay Mr. Sussex £1,000 to take care of his immediate expenses.

But there was still the problem of where the Sussex's were going to live.

If Mr. Sussex had worked in an office it would have been no problem. We'd have put him, and his family, up at a hotel.

But, as Mr. Sussex pointed out, you can't run a farm from a hotel room. His cows expect a 6.50 a.m. call for milking and calves like fires start at all hours of the day and night.

Obviously it was vital for Mr. Sussex to live where every farmer belongs, down on the farm.

Mr. Sussex himself found the perfect solution to his, and our, problem.

It took the form of a 42ft, three bedroom mobile home. He paid £1,500 for it and we paid him back the very next day.

He parked it right next to the cowshed and lived in it quite comfortably until his house had been rebuilt.

Mr. Sussex, it seems, doesn't treat farming as a nine to five job.



Just as we, and Mr. Sussex will back us up on this, don't treat insurance as a nine to five affair.

We won't make a drama out of a crisis.

We knew the cows couldn't wait for the farmer to come home



SPORT

Football

Big City bustle overwhelms Everton

By Norman Fox
Football Correspondent

Manchester City 3 Everton 1

Everton, who had ousted Arsenal, Liverpool and Southampton from the FA Cup, were themselves removed at Maine Road last night by a similarly determined Manchester City team who only a few months ago were candidates for relegation not Wembley.

Two goals by McDonald in the 65th and 68th minutes, both created by Hutchinson, took this extraordinary sixth round replay out of Everton's clutches when it seemed that this dedication and stamina on a sodden pitch might decide that they would go forward to meet Ipswich Town in the semi-final round. Then Power put recovery beyond them as they made their final effort and all they received for such diligence was an inconsequential goal from Eastoe a minute from time.

Despite the torrential rain that brought the referee plodding out onto the squelchy surface four times before giving the go-ahead, the game was played with special vigour and excitement, tinged with concern that the worst aspects of the first match on Saturday would continue. Ruffell had received an automatic suspension and the Manchester City player whom he was alleged to have "bumped" Hutchinson, was expected to be extended the hand of friendship; he had been accused of making too much of the incident. Hanson, who had been sent off by O'Keefe, who had gone down with influenza, but Bailey, the rough full back, returned after suspension.

If self-control was a worry all other forms of control were completed with the utmost difficulty. The ball struck firm at crucial moments and sliding tackles were hair-raising. To dwell on the ball in the penalty area was inviting



McDonald: two goals in three minutes and almost a treble.

danger and it was surprising how much speed Hutchinson, Tuart and Varadi raised.

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No one could expect much from emergency in such conditions but the game thrived on the possibility that Tuart's dexterity and Power's strength would carry City through the defensive tackles. The aggression that at the start was fair began to turn ugly in the final 10 minutes of the half

Enigmatic Spurs rescued by Brooke

By Martin Tyler

Tottenham 2 Stoke 2

The two faces of Tottenham Hotspur were seen on the pitch at White Hart Lane last night. In full view of the Wolverhampton Wanderers assistant manager, Richie Barker, they revealed the defensive shortcomings which may cost them a Wembley place, but twice came from behind with the attacking flair that still marks them as potential FA Cup winners.

Tottenham's goalkeeper, Peter Shilton, was the only player to reveal the benevolent side of their game. Stoke started with the enthusiasm of a side playing their first league game for two and a half weeks; Munro cleverly released Maguire, whose break along the left flank was the only one to threaten the Wolves' defence. Maguire extracted full value from the free kick, picking out O'Leary, who now lives in expectation of such dilly-dally moments, and, unashamed, spent the remaining minutes of the first half striving to retrieve the error. Their cause was hardly helped by an inaccurate half-hour from time.

Spurs began a series of agile saves in the 23rd minute, dropping to his left to parry from Arfield. Three minutes later, Stoke's Archiehall's strong finish to his own assuasive break. Archiehall's goal was a direct result of the Spurs' defence, which was a little shaky in the first half.

At the start of the second half, Maguire pivoted quickly to test Daiches with a sharp volley, then, in a telling cross as Tottenham struck another dreamy patch, the first of the night, the 68th minute heralded a rapid upsurge in Tottenham's fortunes. Stoke's goalkeeper, Peter Shilton, was the only player to reveal the benevolent side of their game.

England reach finals with emphatic win

By Martin Tyler

England 3 Ireland 0

England qualified for the European youth championship finals, in West Germany at the end of March, with an emphatic win over Northern Ireland in the second leg at Seville, Belfast, yesterday. They won the tie 4-0 on aggregate.

Two goals from the Leeds United winger, Connor, and a penalty by Handyside, gave the England team a comfortable victory. England dominated throughout and opened the scoring spectacularly after 32 minutes when Connor took a pass from Walters (Aston Villa) and shot home from 20 yards.

Northern Ireland succumbed again to a miserable second half after Adams saved a fine effort from Walters. The goalkeeper parried the shot but it was only a matter of time before the sides, who were brought down by McDermott. Handyside scored from the spot. England's overall record followed from Walters, proved too much.

WALTERS: Quarter final round: England 3, Ireland 0. Semi-final round: England 2, Ireland 0. Final: England 1, Ireland 0. Total: England 6, Ireland 0.

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World Cup for clubs is planned for Italy

By Martin Tyler

Milan, March 11.—Boca Juniors of Argentina, Penarol of Uruguay, Real Madrid of Spain and Italy's Internazionale di Milano and Milan will play here next June in the first round of what is described as a five-year "World Cup for Clubs" tournament, pitting former winners of the European Cup and of the South American Cup against one another.

Organizers of the competition said other teams in the event, which would continue in coming years in Europe and Latin America, would include Santos of Brazil, Estudiantes, Independiente and Racing of Argentina, Bayern of Germany, Ajax and Feyenoord of Holland.

The clubs will meet annually in five-team, round-robin tournaments from 1981 to 1984. The first round will be played in Milan, the second in Buenos Aires, the third in Rio de Janeiro, the fourth in Sao Paulo, and the fifth in Lima.

Penarol, Boca Juniors, Real Madrid, and Milan will play in the first round of what is described as a five-year "World Cup for Clubs" tournament, pitting former winners of the European Cup and of the South American Cup against one another.

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Norwich ask Walford to join their survival cause

By Martin Tyler

Norwich City completed the £15,000 signing of the Arsenal defender Steve Walford last night. Walford took 30 minutes to agree terms with the Norwich manager Ron Brown and signed after the formal medical. He will make his first appearance against Wolverhampton Wanderers at Molineux on Saturday.

Mr Brown said: "I am absolutely delighted to get a player of Steve's quality so soon after capturing Martin Neil. It is a big boost to our fight against relegation and I'm sure we will survive."

After Mr Brown had agreed terms with the Arsenal manager Terry Neill, Walford travelled to Norwich by train in the afternoon for a quick finalizing of the deal on the eve of the transfer deadline.

Walford, who has made 77 first team appearances for Arsenal since following their manager, Terry Neill from Tottenham Hotspur to Nottm Forest four years ago, is expected to make his first appearance for his new club in Saturday's crucial first division game at Wolverhampton Wanderers.

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Real tennis

Angus sharpens up on Bloombfield

By Ray McKelvie

Howard Angus, the holder for the last fifteen years, who is short of match practice owing to an eye injury, looked much sharper than earlier in the week while reaching the semi-final round of the amateur singles championship at Queen's Club last night. He beat Roddy Bloombfield, 6-1, 6-0, 6-1, a score similar to that on the two occasions they have met in the last 15 years. Angus kept a steady half-along, though, though prepared to rally, had no real winners, stop returns, or anything else that would have helped him to a more comfortable victory.

Angus will now meet John Ward on Saturday. Ward took a shade longer to beat Peter Seabrook by 6-1, 6-3, 6-2 in a match that was played at a pace that allowed both men time to sight their shots. Consequently, there were plenty of long rallies, and numerous chances of second serves or better, something one does not generally see in high level matches.

Occasionally Seabrook tried to speed it up but was incapable of any sustained attack against a resolute and accurate Ward. Rather than being a matter of time, it was a matter of inches. The first set was the important one, as it gave the winner of a distinct psychological advantage. Seabrook showed more enterprise at the start, led 2-1, but his service length and the fact that he was a better player than Seabrook looked as if he was in two minds what to do next, and he was not really in the match.

The second set was never in much doubt and Ward looked to be running away with the third set when he led 4-0. Here, unusually for such a staunch competitor, he lost concentration. Seabrook, attacking the winning opening, recovered to 3-4 and later 5-3, but got no nearer the set than 20-15.

Medical for Williams

The British Boxing Board of Control have asked for a further medical report on David Williams, the British light flyweight who has been nominated to meet Charlie Nash (Derry) in the European championship. Williams failed the medical when he applied for a British licence. However, yesterday, Ray Clarke, secretary of the board, said: "We are prepared to reconsider if the British federation can provide evidence that his eyesight has improved sufficiently since we examined him."

Leonard to defend title

By Martin Tyler

Stratford, March 11.—Sunny Ray Leonard will defend his World Boxing Council welterweight title against Irish-born Larry Bouts in Syracuse University's Carrier Dome on March 25.

Leonard, who is 24 years old, is a two-time world champion. He won the WBC title in 1978 and defended it successfully since he was examined.

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Revised Cup draw

Manchester City v Ipswich Town (at Villa Park)

Tottenham 2 v Wolverhampton (at Hillsborough)

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Rugby Union



Alun Lewis (St Mary's) gets the ball clean away from a muddy maul of forwards

Greenhalgh kills London dreams

By Gordon Allan

St Mary's 9 London 0

St Mary's won the Hospitals Cup for the fourth consecutive year when they beat London by three points in a muddy and muddy match at Roehampton yesterday. Greenhalgh, the Rosslyn Park centre, played a fine home ground, scored all six points in the first half. London have not won the cup since 1968.

In the prevailing mud we got what was a muddy match. Greenhalgh, the Rosslyn Park centre, played a fine home ground, scored all six points in the first half. London have not won the cup since 1968.

St Mary's broke out of defence occasionally in the last quarter and first Alun Lewis, who had been injured in the first half, came back to play. He was the only player to score in the first half. All were long and difficult in the conditions, but even with the heavy ball he found the

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Encounter with a whatsit

No home should be without one, least of all mine. That was the conclusion I immediately came to on reading an advertisement for "The 008 Trionic Briefcase", obtainable from Communication Control Systems, Inc. price not specified but possibly deductible from the fact they charge a tenner for their catalogue alone.

And what, you will ask, is a Trionic Briefcase? Well, obviously they did not consult me, let alone Professor Finley, before they chose the name; presumably they had come across the word "bionic" and thinking that the "bi" bit had something to do with "two", concluded that "tri", being connected with "three", must be better, and by exactly 50 per cent, too.

In this conclusion, they erred, wherefore they will stay in after school and write out 100 times "Bimetallicism, bifocals and bicycles have nothing to do with biology, biography or biochemistry". Having done so, however, they are to consider their fault expiated, and may proceed to sell their wares freely to all those willing to buy. And I hope their business flourishes, because not for some time have I read anything jollier than their description of the Trionic Briefcase and its contents, whence my desire to own one.

We begin with the case itself, which has a "Super lightweight removable bullet proof exterior". I am not at all sure how you can remove the exterior of a briefcase, bullet proof or no; surely the exterior is the briefcase? (Herbert Samuel, writing about the universe, described space as "A large, empty box, with the top, bottom and sides removed". I would think the makers of the Trionic Briefcase are into metaphysics to that extent.)

Bernard Levin

Anyway, having removed the exterior, we come to the interior, in which we find a number of contraptions that I simply do not know how I have hitherto managed to get along without. First is a "Telephone Scrambler" to make your conversation indecipherable to eavesdroppers. I would certainly like one of those, though mind you, the inclusion of this item suggests a curious unfamiliarity, on the part of the manufacturer, with our Post Office, which has already gone a long way towards making all our telephone conversations indecipherable.

Next, however, we come to a "Pocket sized night viewing device to see in total darkness". Assuming that they are not talking about a cat, I am by no means sure what they are talking about, and begin to fear that the article must be something like the magic spectacles of Coppelius in *The Tales of Hoffman*, the use of which certainly led to tears before bedtime. Much more up my street is the thing which prides "Electronic detection of explosive vapours". A matter of fact, I have used an old-fashioned hand-operated version of this on my columns for many years; it is called a "Times Newspapers legal adviser" and although it has served me and the company loyally and well, I think I shall now have to invest in the more modern system.

Even more modern, and no less essential, is the "whatsit" that enables the user to "Analyse a person's voice electronically to detect truth and deception". This, you must admit, is what we have all been looking for for years and years. I take you just shove the person about whom you have doubts in at one end, press the button, and amid the clanking of gears, a ticket comes out at the other, reading either "Pure as the driven" or "Not quite sixteen annas to the rupee".

From defence, the Trionic Briefcase now moves over to the attack. Any man carrying such a doodad around with him is obviously liable to be assaulted by the police, by those whose efforts to eavesdrop on his telephone conversations have been frustrated by the scrambler which makes it impossible, those who have been up to various tricks about the house in the dark, only to find themselves embarrassed by his use of the night viewing instrument, and those who have failed the truth-or-deception test; for all these, the Trionic Briefcase has

an unpleasant surprise in store, in the shape of an appliance nicknamed "Security Blanket", by the use of which "A high powered beam temporarily blinds and stuns with no physical harm". My own way of dealing with persons intent upon doing me a mischief has always been to play them *Pelléas et Mélisande* on the gramophone, which I have found certainly stuns them, albeit with boredom, and even blinds them, to judge by the glazed look in their eyes; but the Security Blanket with its power to blind and stun without causing physical harm seems to me preferable, particularly since a number of the burglars I have dealt with in the other fashion have suffered permanent brain damage as a result, and although I was invariably acquitted on a plea of self-defence, ugly rumours have been going about.

But the list of wheezes the Trionic Briefcase holds is by no means exhausted. Another contrivance ensures that "If the briefcase is stolen or grabbed, a screaming siren, will automatically sound"; I don't know about a screaming siren, but what sounded around these parts when I read those words was a good deal of very hollow laughter, for I never did get back the briefcase stolen from me (as I reported here) outside Fortnum & Mason last Christmas, and I would like to think of the thief being pursued night and day by a screaming siren. A further notion, however, seems to have got into the TB by mistake, and a singularly unpleasant mistake, with it, the customer is assured, you can "Monitor your conversation for six incredible hours". I presume that what this actually does is to pre-record your conversation for six hours without saving anything that, so far from wanting to have monitored, I would not, as soon as it was uttered, have given my entire savings, or even a really substantial sum of money, to call back and catch me when asleep. Especially when asleep.

Lastly, there is the most puzzling bit of apparatus in the entire collection, a little number of which the makers proudly claim that "Even if you're kidnapped, this electronic transmitter can track you down". Now in the first place, having forked out for a telephone scrambler to make my conversation indecipherable, a night viewing implement for seeing villains approaching even in total darkness, a method of infallibly detecting explosive vapours, a system for detecting the false note in the voice of those practising with intent to deceive, a high powered beam which simultaneously stuns and blinds an "oncoming attacker", a screaming siren which goes off automatically if the briefcase is stolen, and a machine for monitoring my conversation for six hours at a stretch, I would be speedily demanding my money back if I were kidnapped at all. But leaving that aside, I cannot quite see how this "transmitter" can track me, because if I were kidnapped, it would be pointless for the electronic transmitter in my Trionic Briefcase to track me down. I mean, wherever they took me that's where I would be, with my faithful transmitter by my side; it's my friends (and it wouldn't half tell you who your real friends were), not to mention the rozzers, who ought to be equipped with the tracking device.

All the same, I think I must invest in this paranoiac's *vide-mecum*, and strongly urge you to do the same. There is one puzzling matter, however, which I have just noticed in the TB, fully illustrated in the advertisement I have seen, and close study of the picture reveals that the case is entirely filled with the electronic gadgetry, I have listed, and there is no room for the owner to carry anything in it at all; apparently the briefcase has absolutely no function as a briefcase, but is, in technical terms, an entirely circular device designed solely to prevent itself being stolen or harmed—an object that could be achieved at a fraction of the cost by not getting one in the first place. I shall not have it after all, though if anyone would like to buy it for me for Christmas, I shall not refuse to accept it.

Times Newspapers Limited, 1981



The marches of time: Jarrow unemployed slog through the rain near Marble Arch in 1936, and nuclear disarmers take to the streets of Ely in 1958.

The sad state of the old country

Louis Heren looks at the historic reasons for Britain's present gloom

Britain is a very old country. Obviously, of course, but stating the obvious can be occasionally useful. In terms of continuing political institutions, we are the oldest country in the world; or, to put it another way, we are the only industrial democracy which is not a modern state.

Britain was not created as were the United States, the Soviet Union, West Germany and France—which has had several goes at it. India and China inherited ancient civilizations, but as nation states they are post-war creations.

With the United States—the second oldest country—they came into being as a result of a conscious act, by revolution or negotiation. They were born with the apparatus and attitudes of a modern state, and an eagerness to begin anew. Britain, like Toppy, just grew. Revolution and regime change were incidents in our history, no more important than the Reform Bill or the Taff Vale decision.

This continuity explains our many strengths, and also why we have done less well than the modern industrial democracies in recent years. We were well placed to take full advantage of the unprecedented period of economic expansion that followed the Second World War. We could and should have made a

better go of it, but we missed or fumbled many of the opportunities largely because of the burdens of the past.

Not that our economic decline was obvious to all until recently. For the vast majority of the population life is still in many ways much better than it was before the war. They are better fed and housed. Their horizons have been widened by television, radio and newspapers, by cars and packaged tours. Higher education is more readily available for their children, and the National Health Service, for all its faults, has improved health and reduced some of the terrors of pain and aging.

Until recently those post-war increases in living standards could be seen to disprove the evidence of a country in decline. An American journalist, Bernard Nossiter, wrote in 1978 that the condition of Britain was the consequence of the conscious choice of the majority. He believed that Britons were the first citizens of the post-industrial age to choose leisure rather than material goods.

The slow economic growth was not the result of an excessive welfare or tax burden, the dismal product of any equalizing of incomes, or the penalty imposed by militant left unions or a bitter class struggle. It

reflected an attitude, a life style, a choice. Britain was a society more or less at peace with itself, generally orderly, generally tolerant, more or less humane.

Nossiter would have been more persuasive had he written earlier: say in 1966 when *Time* magazine discovered swinging London. "Britain has lost an empire and lightened the pound. In the process, it has also recovered a lightness of heart lost during the weighty centuries of world leadership." Says sociologist Richard Hoggart, 47, himself a slum orphan from industrial Leeds: "A new group of people is emerging into society, creating a kind of classlessness and a verve which has not been seen before."

It was still possible then to believe that *Time* had got it right, but it is now clear that we have not escaped from the burdens of the past. One example must suffice.

Our sense of national greatness and superiority stood between us and the new realities while *Time* was celebrating our liberation from the past. We went on behaving as if we were still a great power, the centre of the Commonwealth and partner of the United States, the new superpower.

The Diplomatic Service must share

the responsibility for this near-fatal delusion, but politicians of both parties were only too willing and eager to live in this pretend world. They did great damage to the country in their foreign policy and defence spending prevented Britain from beginning anew after the war.

That war was a critical juncture in our history. It had destroyed the old balance of power and reduced Britain to a medium-sized trading nation. We could have accepted the inevitable with good grace and devoted our talents and resources to conquer new worlds in trade, technology and the arts of living.

Alas, it was not to be. The habit of authority, buttressed by national and personal pride, led Ernest Bevin, Foreign Secretary, and the architect of British post-war foreign policy, to cling to the role of a world power. In so doing he and his Cabinet colleagues diverted resources and talents from the rebuilding of Britain and first put us on the slippery slope of economic decline.

It was ironic that Mr Bevin, a trade union leader who first went to work at the age of 13 for sixpence a week and his keep, acted as if he was an Old Etonian who had served in the Brigade of Guards and

lunched regularly at the Carlton Club or the Beefeater. Such a man, Harold Macmillan, hastened the decline when he flew to Bermuda later to persuade President Kennedy to sell us Polaris missiles.

As if to prove that class is not a factor, Mrs Thatcher, who came from the lower-middle class, is now determined to float a fleet of Trident submarines at an estimated cost of £6,000m. We are apparently committed to remaining a nuclear power until the second decade of the twenty-first century when, if the national decline continues, Britain will have been relegated to the third or fourth division of economic and military powers.

Such is the imperial burden of our past. There are others too numerous to discuss here, but in the morning after gloom of yet another harsh Budget we must not forget the strengths our past has nurtured.

We are a talented people. The war demonstrated that we can be as courageous, adventurous and resourceful as the great captains who sailed away to claim much of the earth for Britain. This is the past we should remember.

Alas, *Alas for England* by Louis Heren is published today by Hamish Hamilton at £7.95.

Ronald Butt

Sir Geoffrey takes his revenge

As well as being a reaffirmation of the Chancellor's confidence in his basic financial policy, the Budget was a confession that there had been a grave failure in the application of this policy, for which amendments must now be made. The whole shape of the Budget was an admission by Sir Geoffrey Howe that the Government collectively, which had willed the end of cutting public spending as the essential method of beating inflation, had failed, under political pressure, to accept the means.

Of course, we all know about this failure at the time of the spending cuts, but over public spending cuts, last autumn, when Mrs Thatcher and her Treasury colleagues were worsted by the resolve of the spending ministers. But it was the received wisdom of almost every political comment at that time that it spelt the end of the Government's anti-inflation policy and the switch to some kind of new expansionism, with the pump primed by a much less approach to public spending.

At that time, I was almost alone in predicting (Nov 20, 1980) that Mrs Thatcher and the Chancellor would stick to their policy on public borrowing and would insist that what the spending ministers had refused to cut should be paid for in higher taxation when the Budget

came—and so it has proved. Penal interest rates damaging industry have been the consequence of the failure to allow public spending; now, to allow interest rates to come down without throwing the financial strategy to the winds, Sir Geoffrey has produced quite the most unpopular Budget in my memory.

It might be described as his revenge on Mr Francis Pym, who had willed the end of cutting public spending as the essential method of beating inflation, had failed, under political pressure, to accept the means.

One of the most significant aspects of the Budget speech was the Chancellor's assertion that the present method of planning public spending principally by volume control will no longer suffice. He therefore intends to apply the principle of cash limits to annual spending reviews, starting with that for 1982-83, by establishing firmly at the outset the cash available to each department and programme for the year.

This, he pointed out, is bound to make things harder for those who have to manage spending programmes, but like any family, departments will have to

determine their spending according to the cash available, instead of deciding what they want and then expecting the money to pay for it to be found—when the cost turns out to be higher than expected.

Of course, there will still be political decisions to be made about the share of one department and one programme against the claims of others. But once it has been accepted that a given cash limit is operative it should be easier for Treasury ministers to carry out their duties. Ministers at the outset, and subsequently it will be harder for spending ministers to argue against the Treasury that a programme is sacrosanct when its cost turns out to be more than originally calculated and agreed.

There is, moreover, another side to the question. The basic charge against the Government is not so much that it has failed to make spending cuts but that the cuts it has made have been overlaid by other spending—particularly on pay—which is why the Government is rightly refusing to pay the civil servants more than 7 per cent (surely the most crucial of all its immediate battles) and why it has not been able to spend more in what can be described as the constructive and industrial elements of the public sector.

In the depths of a recession, the Chancellor is understandably criticized for not doing so, but the critics always speak as though investment spending should not count in the total of public borrowing and should be sacrosanct even if there is overspending elsewhere. Yet if money is to be found for the constructive government spending that will assist us out of recession, but without causing inflation, there must be moderation in public sector pay, which is about 60 per cent of major public spending programmes.

This leads to another aspect of Sir Geoffrey's Budget which is too easily overlooked: his call for improved methods of settling public sector pay.

Some will see this as a move towards the incomes policy they are always predicting. In the last of these articles, I suggested that the Government should look for new forms of consultation with organized labour in the industries for which it is directly responsible in order to avoid the danger to its authority that threatened recently when it was forced to retreat in face of the miners' threatened strike against pit closures.

One or two colleagues thought that this line of reasoning would lead to the kind of incomes policy that I have criticized in the past as impractical and therefore dangerous to good government.

Yet there is really no resemblance between such a policy (variously applied from industry to industry) and the sort of incomes policy tried in the past, when the Government or its agencies have laid down a norm to apply to everyone—which obliges it to undertake damaging battles wherever the policy is challenged, or to surrender when the going is rough and bring the whole policy into disrepute.

If new mechanisms for carrying consent about incomes and everything else within an industry are an incomes policy I am all for an incomes policy—but that is something very different from what we have experienced in the past and something that now ought to be tried. This Government is very much in need of as much consent as it can get.

The Budget is an amazingly brave exercise in the past and something that now ought to be tried. This Government is very much in need of as much consent as it can get.

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The harshness of this Budget is an assurance that the modest 1 per cent cut in minimum lending rate will not have to be reversed and the best hope that further cuts will follow. After all, a Budget does not settle everything for the next 12 months.

Suppose that, as the reward for its stringency, interest rates are three or four per cent lower still by this time next year, with inflation still falling and the first signs of industrial recovery in sight? Will the Budget be judged a failure then—and who will remember its unpopularity?

gather that one reason for the union's attitude is that they feared they might be appearing to condone an illegal act by allowing homosexuality to continue; in legalising homosexuality by the 1967 Sexual Offences Act, Parliament specifically excluded the Merchant Navy.

Some union members feel that the very illegality of a not uncommon shipboard practice enhances the need for the sort of counselling service the Switchboard claims to offer. I trust *The Telegraph* will at least permit advertisements for rum and gramophone records.

A sticky version of the Lord's Prayer has just been published by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge. Self-adhesive sheets of "Lead us not into temptation" can be purchased and transformed into the horrible modern *Services Three* version: "Do not lead us to the time of trial." At 30p for a sheet of nine *Alternative Service Book* Lord's Prayers, they seem an absolute snip for semi-traditionalists.

Alan Hamilton

Will this quango be less equal than others?

A quango everyone loves to hate is the Commission for Racial Equality, the enormous organization which sets out to eliminate racial discrimination and to ensure that all of us, including trust. Sects are dispensed out equality of opportunity.

At any black gathering the CRE is a favourite target for abuse and jokes about jobs for the boys. Black leaders accuse it of being ineffective and of taking the sting out of black unrest: right-wing and even quite damp Conservatives hate it just because it is a quango, and a quango which interferes with the natural order.

Well, I have news for the quango-bashers. They will have the chance of a lifetime later this month when the House of Commons race relations and immigration sub-committee opens an inquiry into the maligned commission. Left and right will, I suspect, be making

common cause to wipe the CRE off the map.

The decision to hold the inquiry has aroused suspicions about who first suggested it. Alex Lyon, the maverick Labour MP for York, who probably knows more about race relations than anyone else in the House, is known to be a staunch defender of black rights, but no admirer of the CRE.

Suggestions that he may have been the source of the inquiry are strongly denied. The sub-committee's decision was unanimous, and was perhaps reinforced by what was thought to be the rather poor evidence the CRE prepared for the committee's last inquiry into racial disadvantage.

The CRE is maintaining a well-braced upper lip about the whole business and even says it is pleased about the inquiry. It has taken care not to announce the appointment of Ken Gill, leader of the white-collar section of the engineering union and a Communist Party member, to sit on the commission.

The appointment was confirmed last month, but it is perhaps significant that I am the first to tell you about it.

I appear to have been over-generous to Stefan Terlecki in my report last week that he intends to fight Cardiff West for the Tories on the retirement of Mr Speaker George Thomas. He did not do as well as I suggested when he fought Cardiff South-East in the two elections of 1974: indeed the Labour Member increased his 5,455 majority in 1970 to 10,718 in October 1974. My apologies to the sitting tenant, Jim Callaghan.

Nonchalant air

I enjoy the informality of the announcements on BBC Radio Three; they always give the pleasantly-un-Reithian impression of being seated at the microphone in Fair Isle jerseys and slippers. But there was a more than usually relaxed moment the other morning, with John Holmes from addressing the nation.

"Nine o'clock, and I'll read you the news when I can find it," he announced. "At the moment I've lost it." A long silence followed, during which he presumably placed a red



At last he reappeared to report: "Okay, I've found it," and the news was duly delivered.

The cool of the true professional is of course to be admired, but I cannot help feeling that he could have turned his moment of distress to greater advantage, listening up the erudite and civilized channel with a display of neo-destructivism. For example:

"Radio Three. Nine o'clock, and I've lost the news. Well, not lost it actually. It was so dreadfully eminent that I've dropped it in the waste basket. So straight on to a delightfully inventive sonata by Stockhausen."

In case you hadn't heard, I understand that when Prince Charles takes the throne the Royal couple will be known as The King and Di.

five hundredth edition four weeks ago with the closing date of March 13. If you answer all the questions correctly you could be one of five lucky winners to receive a life subscription to what is still our best satirical journal.

If you should find some of the questions a little tricky, never fear. All the answers, and a list of three (not five) prize-winners appear in the current edition of the *Eye*, which went on sale yesterday, March 11.

Unplugged

A matter of some delicacy has been ruffling the usually calm waters of *The Telegraph*, the official monthly journal of the Merchant Navy officers' trade union. Leaders of the Merchant Navy and Airline Officers' Association have decided that their paper should no longer carry advertisements for Gay Switchboard, a homosexual information and advisory service.

The union's decision has come to light after some robust discussion in the paper's letters column for and against the seemingly inoffensive little

classified ad, which appeared in five monthly issues.

One member was so incensed that he was moved to inquire "If our hitherto excellent magazine is soon to descend to the level where ads for and from whores, comic singers and all other forms of depravity are everyday events."

Captain D. C. McNab of a Bahamas towing company fulminated about the journal becoming "a touting service for perverses" and handed in his union card in disgust.

Other readers took a much more open-minded view. One of the association's "many members" said the hostile letters were untypical of seafarers, most of whom were very tolerant. Another, who made it plain he was not a potential Switchboard customer, wrote: "I am quite sure that the blinkered prejudice displayed is far from typical of the Association membership."

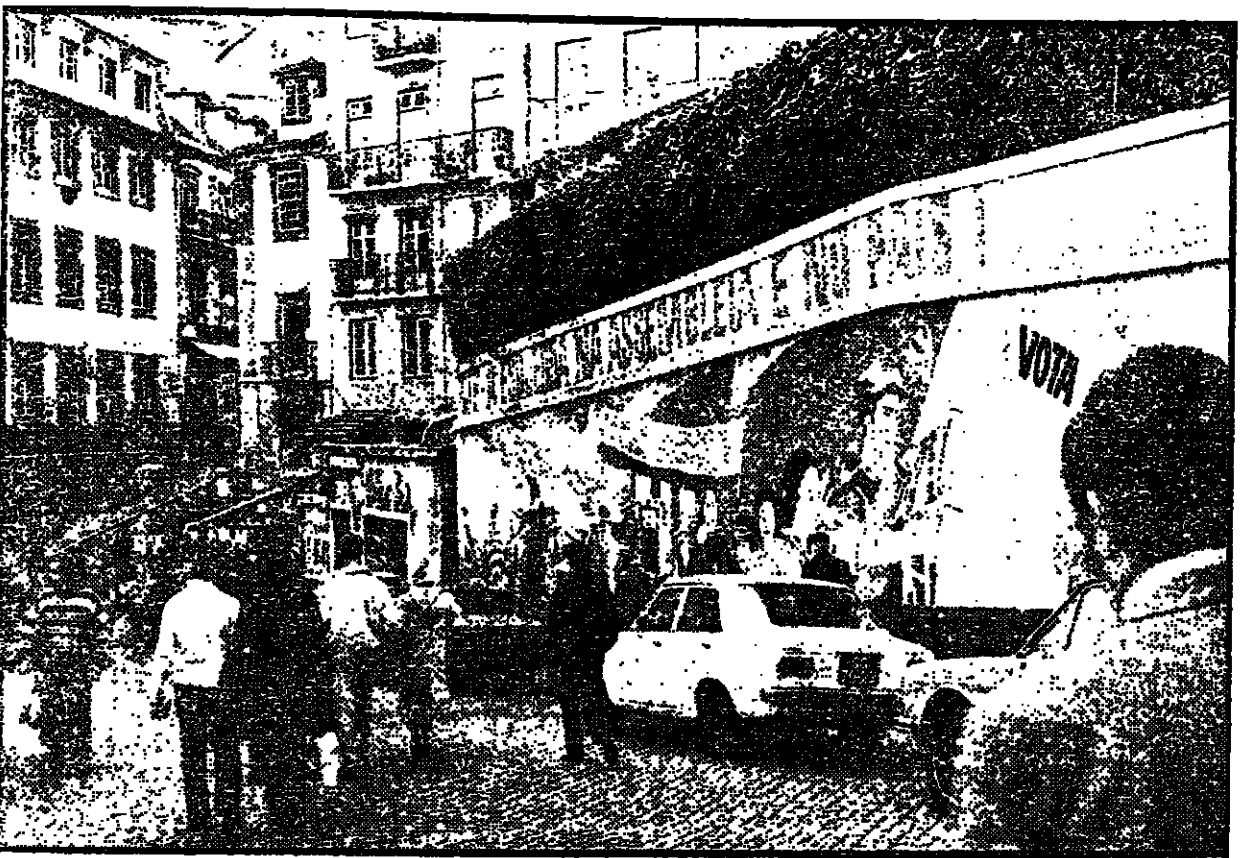
But they were too late; Eric Nevin, the union's general secretary, had already ordered the ad to be withdrawn.

David Turner, editor of *The Telegraph*, refused to comment on the matter yesterday. But I

spotted handkerchief over the mike and got down on his hands and knees to search the floor.

Max I remind you that you have until tomorrow to enter *Private Eye* magazine's anniversary quiz, launched in the journal's

PORTUGUESE TOURISM



Wall paintings at the Rossio station, Lisbon. Top: the fruit and vegetable market, Cascais.

Photographs: Bill Warhurst.

In spite of the recession in Britain, or perhaps because of it, the number of British visitors to Portugal is likely to increase this year by 12 to 13 per cent. And that, after a 21 per cent increase on the 1979 figures, indicates that all is going well at the western end of the Iberian Peninsula.

Portuguese tourist offices throughout Europe, airlines, both national and charter, hoteliers and restaurateurs are delighted at the trend and see 1981 as a bumper year.

Whether the holidaymakers, particularly in the Algarve, where 88 per cent of visitors go, will be as delighted when they find the roads, water and electricity not up to their expectations is another matter. An indefinable Portuguese charm will disarm the protester; an imperceptible lift of the shoulders, a spread of hands, will temper the outburst. There will be lost tempers but the visitors will return—again and again.

Tourism is the highest earner of foreign currency after remittances from Portuguese workers abroad (122,000m escudos from January to October 1980—about £1,025m). The country will attract more than seven million visitors, over 500,000 of them British and more than 30,000 from the Republic of Ireland. The biggest difficulty is where to put them all.

The total of beds is a little over 100,000 with a further 10,000 in Madeira. The building programme is proceeding at a fast rate, though not nearly fast enough to counter the grumbles about how difficult it is in Britain to book a Portuguese holiday when it is wanted.

The British alone will be taking a minimum total of two million bed nights. There are fewer beds in Portugal than in an average Spanish resort, while Spain has more than three million beds for its tourists. The political situation, which started and deterred many visitors after the April 1974 revolution, has now stabilised. The bad years from then until late 1976

in strict contrast is Alentejo, a wholly unspoiled Portuguese company formed in Oporto 140 years ago. Claiming to be the biggest tourism company in Portugal, it operates in reverse by bringing Portuguese to Britain as well as running inclusive holidays to Portugal in conjunction with Air Portugal.

There are few modern complexes, and old hotels and *pousadas* (state-run inns) are excellent value. It is an old-fashioned way of holidaying, with overtones of an Edwardian era and a few later-day bonuses, such as running water and good service. In addition there are spas where you can take the waters, although few British do so and it would seem the right time to relieve the pressure on other centres by beginning a campaign to get them there to sample the waters and the duty-free whisky.

Where the north has an abundance of water the Algarve is dying of thirst. It has not rained in the south to any measurable extent since last October and the ground is parched; the terraces are emptying and the only way to get water is to buy it from the *bombeiros* (fire brigade) who charge for bringing it, not for the water itself. At the same time golf courses down there are deluged with 350,000 gallons a day to maintain their excellent condition, the water coming from a huge water table reached through bore holes.

To relieve the pressure in the south the Government is helping the local authorities to build three dams to generate electricity. Building will take two to three years and will make a considerable difference to the locals and the comfort of the visitor.

Tourism is thought to employ almost 150,000 people, although they do not all show in official statistics since many are employed seasonally. Even with that number, tempers become frayed while visitors wait and fume for service. Many right-wing Portuguese attribute this indifference to the number of communists at the point of sale. The allegation is difficult to substantiate as you are unlikely to get an admission of political leanings.

There is criticism through-



out the country about pollution caused by the visitors, which could become a health hazard. It will continue unless the authorities take steps to install satisfactory sewerage systems. There are plans, but finding the money is the big problem and they remain on the drawing board. The state tourist office is aware of the difficulty and the Government is working hard to attract foreign investment by offering good returns over periods of as long as 15 to 20 years. Special conditions have been created, with up to 50 per cent return on capital in certain cases.

Meanwhile in May a group of businessmen will be visiting Lisbon for talks on integration into the EEC. Among the various committees will be one devoted to tourism, chaired by Sir Henry Marking, the head of the British Tourist Authority.

This year is also the fiftieth anniversary of the setting up of the Portuguese tourist office in London. In that time more than six million British have visited the country, and celebrations are planned with receptions and other events which, for the moment, remain secret. It looks as though the oldest alliance in the world is set for another 50 years of reciprocal visiting.

Anthony Jones

Along the road to the south

Where treasures and good food abound

The state of Portugal is more than 800 years old, having its roots in the town of Guimaraes, heart of the country's most beautiful province, the Minho. King Afonso Henriques, born in 1106 in Guimaraes, was responsible for forging the modern state out of the old Roman province of Portucale. The king's armies spread slowly southwards and his successors finally drove the Moors out of the south of the country

a couple of hundred years later, fixing the boundaries of present-day Portugal which have remained virtually unchanged since.

Guimaraes is full of treasures and monuments, as befits the cradle of the nation, and the sights are well worth visiting. The same applies to Braga, an important strategic settlement near by, on the crossroads of five military highways in Roman times, and today acknowledged as Portugal's religious heartland. It is the seat of an important Roman Catholic bishopric.

Students of history should thus find the area full of interest and, once satisfied, the curious traveller might like to move on to the once exceptionally wealthy seaport of Viana do Castelo, close to the Spanish border.

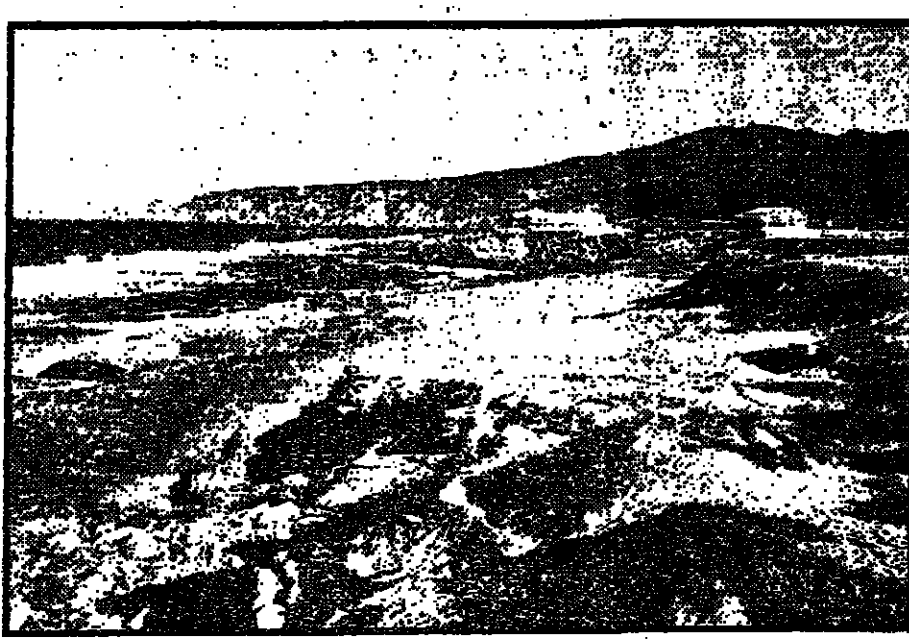
In the sixteenth century Viana was a bustling and opulent maritime trading centre, rivaling Oporto and attracting King Manuel who, on important occasions, held court there. Traders from Genoa, Venice and elsewhere visited Viana, and the local barons built up vast and profitable fishing fleets. The town's museums reflect this former wealth. Today Viana is an important shipbuilding centre.

The southbound highway out of Viana follows the Costa Verde and offers undiscovered beaches where tourists are few and "Benidorms" non-existent. Make a stop at the dunes of beach of Ofir, near Barcelos, to watch the seaweed gatherers in their romantic white togas splashing in the surf as they rake in the valuable weed.

Onwards towards Oporto you will find nine or 10 small hospitable seaside resorts where the same warm Portuguese sun will bake you as nicely brown as it would on the Algarve but in surroundings which are excitingly different. Just over the hills lies the remarkable beauty of the Minho with its trailing vines, green fields and smiling people who keep their folklore traditions alive.

The Minho is famous for wine. The grapes you will see growing high above the ground all around you are trained this way to produce the special *vinho verde* of the country. The wine is available in red and white varieties and is best drunk well chilled. It is green in name only, being picked young and thus having a lower alcoholic content and a slight, pleasant effervescence.

Inland from the Minho is



Atlantic coast with beaches and Cabo da Roca in the background.

the rugged mountainous area of Trás-os-Montes, reputedly the poorest region in Western Europe, crisscrossed by tortuously winding roads which pass through spectacular scenery. Here you will find Portugal's national park—that of Peneda-Gerês—full of wild flowers, sweeping panoramas and wildlife such as deer, wolves, foxes, boar and many species of birds including various types of eagle. In this wilderness you can make use of rudimentary camp sites to spend some time in one of Europe's last unspoiled reserves. The coastal road now approaches Oporto, the country's second city and that of port wine. Despite more than 200 years interest Britain has had in this industry, in recent years the United Kingdom has slipped from first place as a consumer of the drink, giving this place d'honneur to the French.

Tomes have been written about the origins of port and the special conditions which give it its inimitable characteristics. Briefly, the vines were brought from Burgundy 800 years ago and planted in the arid, hot and damp Douro Valley—which happens to be on the 41st Parallel, a position in which this vine flourishes.

The production of port wine is strictly controlled in a defined area, and British shippers dominate the industry governed by a special 1703 trade treaty between Portugal and Britain can hear in fado houses in

designed to meet the demand for the drink which increased after it found favour with successive British monarchs.

Good food is part of the northern tradition (as indeed it is all over the country), and hungry travellers should try the succulent sweet-water fish of the area—especially trout of the Minho and the tasty *cidade verde* soup, a thick potato and spinach mixture flavoured with olive oil and spicy sausage. The main local dish is *doubrada*, a mixture of tripe and white beans which is far more appetizing than it sounds.

After looking around Oporto, which some find a heavy and not particularly attractive city, you will find a wide road southwards passing good beaches around Espinho and starting you down the Costa de Prata—the "silver coast". If you are tired of the beaches by now, take a drive past the Aveiro saltpans and on to the town of Lhavo. Near by you will find the china pottery works of the Vista Alegre company, producing the country's finest china in a selection of classical patterns.

Farther down the coast you come to Figueira da Foz on the mouth of the Mondego which, a few kilometres upstream, passes through the university town of Coimbra, an important European centre of learning in the Middle Ages and still considered Portugal's main university.

Coimbra is also well known for its *fado*, a special version of the traditional plaintive folk-song which can hear in fado houses in

Lisbon's ancient quarters.

The coastline from here down to the fishing port of Peniche is rather desolate and the next port of call should probably be the interesting little town of Nazaré. Its folk live by fishing and market days are colourful, with the women in their multi-layered traditional skirts bearing large trays of fresh ocean fish on their heads and competing with one another to be heard above the general babble.

Within easy reach of Nazaré are other places of historic and general interest such as the massive cathedral at Batalha, the pottery centre of Caldas da Rainha, the monastery at Alcobaça, and the picturesque walled town of Obidos. In this area the battles of the Peninsular War against the French were fought.

Back to the coast again, at Ericeira, is a popular surfing beach with some of the highest waves off this part of the European coast.

From there the road swings inland to Byron's Eden of Sintra, with its wonderful wooded glades, soaring slopes, strange castles and fragrant gardens. Passing through this paradise, which you must see whatever the weather, you drive along the spectacular cliffs of Cabo de Roca, skirt the rocky beaches of the Guincho and emerge in Cascais at the end of the golden line of Lisbon's seaside resorts, among which is Estoril—that playground of deposited European crowned heads.

Jon Fairfax

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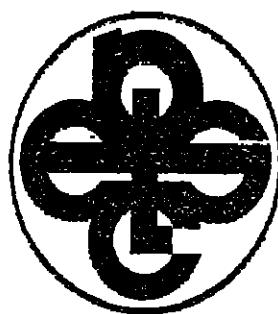
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Mountain backdrop to a curving coast

Golden sunbaked sand—but an icy sea

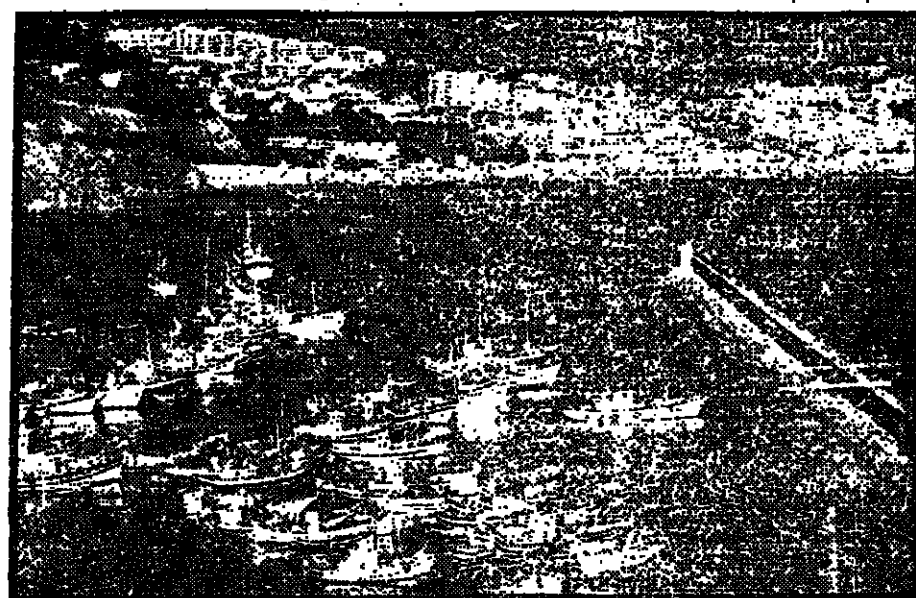
The 400km coast from Lisbon to Cape St Vincent first winds and then sweeps gracefully south, an almost unspoilt continuous stretch of golden, sunbaked sand inviting the traveller for a swim, a picnic, or a stroll. But be warned, the waters of the Atlantic at this point are freezing, even during the searing heat of the Portuguese summer.

Sea, sand and sun are not all you will find along this coast. If you take the road out of Lisbon, crossing the great suspension bridge over the Tagus estuary, and skirting traces of the old Roman route to the south, a short drive will bring you to Aveiro, gateway to many interesting spots. On the first Sunday of each month in Aveiro, a local fair is held which is famous for its pungent cheese. In the vicinity are a number of quintas (farms) and country mansions, including one, the Quinta da Torre, which is now a pretty guesthouse and restaurant.

A left turn at the Aveiro crossroads takes you to Palmela, a walled town with well-preserved examples of traditional architecture and a recently constructed pousada (state inn) installed in the old Moorish castle which towers over the town. The foothills of the Arrábida Mountains (serra da Arrábida) frame the route and dozens of sail-driven windmills, several still working, march along the line of the ridge before Palmela.

A right turn at Aveiro leads you to an intersection where you can choose between Arrábida National Park or the road to the fishing village and beach resort of Sesimbra. Here almost every restaurant you stumble upon is serving fresh fish.

Driving out of Sesimbra and keeping the sea on your left hand you will come to the desolate but starkly beautiful Cabo Espichel, where stands the Shrine of Nossa Senhora do Cabo, a ruined church with two wings of pilgrims' rest-houses flanking it, and all scheduled for conversion into a pousada. Below, the steep cliffs tumble away



The fishing village of Sesimbra, 19 miles south of Lisbon.

giving panoramic views of the area and, if you do not mind the climb, there are several inviting sandy coves populated usually only by a few fishermen.

If you take the other option at the intersection you pass through the rolling heathland of Arrábida Park, which sweeps down from the hills to the sea. This is the home of the last protected specimens of original Iberian flora. The route, through this expanse of mountain backdrop brings glimpses of striking sea vistas, whiffs of hundreds of wild herbs and, if you arrange permission beforehand, a visit to the Convento Novo, property of the Duke of Palmela. A conveniently placed viewing platform overlooks this monastery, alongside one of the line of stations of the cross climbing the mountainside.

Below, in a curving headland, is the little village of Portinho da Arrábida where, close to lunchtime, you should stop for some freshly caught, grilled sole and almond tart, specialties of one of the restaurants just

ting out over the seaweed-clogged waters on this coast. From this village take the lower road to the ugly but ancient town of Setúbal on the Sado estuary where there are several interesting churches and monuments. Crossing the Sado, by Hovercraft or car ferry, takes you to Troia, formerly a virgin spit of land at the start of the sweeping unbroken line of golden beach which ends at Cape St Vincent, but now the site chosen for Portugal's equivalent of Las Vegas.

A large tourist group is in the process of erecting a luxury hotel, holiday apartment and casino complex which when completed will offer all sorts of sporting and holiday amenities. Near by are some Roman ruins, which can also be viewed at Santiago do Cacem, about 60 km farther south, a town flanking the old Roman road from the port of Vila Nova de Milfontes to Merida in neighbouring Spain. Before reaching these two villages, you will pass the only eyecore on this coast, the massive Sines industrial and oil refinery complex which started in 1973 as the focal point for the petrochemical and allied industries. Sines, renowned as the birthplace

of Vasco da Gama, the Portuguese explorer who charted the sea route to India in the fifteenth century, was once a small beach resort cum fishing village and one of the last places in the country to have a town crier. Now it is bustling with construction work and trying to live up to its projected image as a decentralized development point.

Down the road lies Santiago do Cacem, where the Knights of Saint James were once billeted and where an inviting pousada with wonderful views awaits the weary traveller. Then press on along the windy but scenically beautiful road to the plain and unremarkable little seaside settlement of Vila Nova de Milfontes, where you may overtake bevy of American and European tourists.

National Route 20 leads you out of Milfontes and along the coast, crossing the Monchique mountains which are the natural boundary of the country's better-known province, the Algarve. The road will take you directly to Lagos, one of the prettier resorts on this tourist-saturated coast and a sharp right turn soon brings you to Sagres.

Jon Fairfax

The Algarve is becoming too accessible

Old orange groves bear newfangled fruit

For more than 1,200 years the Algarve remained quiet, a backwater in the broiling summer sun. It absorbed the Roman culture and, in time, the Moorish, too. For centuries the peasants tilled their ground, the fishermen braved the sometimes stormy Atlantic as far as the Newfoundland Grand Banks, later in search of bacalhau (codfish). In addition, they were daring explorers under Prince Henry the Navigator.

The oranges, lemons, figs, olives and almonds grew abundantly in the Garden of Portugal and all seemed well. The scene remained so until the early 1960s when businessmen discovered what a boon the region could become for a growing tourist market seeking fresh destinations.

Certainly, for many years before then, holiday makers from Lisbon had visited the area, but it remained quiet and unworldly with only the clip-clop of the donkey carts to disturb the solitude. Now, in the summer, thousands of cars clog the main route (the estrada 125) along the coast.

"So different from the early days when I first came here," said Mr Harry Warner, who runs Sir Harry's Bar in Albufeira. "Then, I swear, I was the only person driving from here to Faro, a distance of 56 kilometres."

Then came the airport at Faro, disgorging hundreds of visitors ready to suffer to attain mahogany runs and to assault the first golf course to be built (designed by three times Open winner, Harry Cotton) at Vale do Lobo.

Since those days the golf courses have multiplied—there are now five, with Quinta da Lago and Vale do Lobo boasting 27 holes each; elegant Moorish-style villas and blocks of flats have sprung up; hotels, often resembling glistening egg boxes, have soared. So far the quickening development has been contained but there is always the danger that the coastline will be spoilt. Indeed, in

some respects it already has been. Dr Ismael Ribeiro da Cunha, the outgoing president of Algarve Regional Tourist Board, said that something must be done soon to halt the deterioration of the area. His complaints of unauthorized building, "wild" camping, dirty beaches, water shortages, an inefficient telephone service and rapidly increasing prices.

He sees all those things as potentially damaging to the future of tourism in the region. He is right, too, in that the present services and laws are insufficient to meet the requirements of the thousands who visit it each year.

The frantic development which has taken place in the past 18 years has attracted a myriad variety of business-men, capable of taking care of every modern need, from landscape gardening to swimming pools, from English-style butchers' shops to discos.

More and more British, and everyone has to take a hard look at everything. He is curious, paternalistic for a capital, have arrived, shattering the quietude of the area. Once peaceful region, smart operators from Lisbon have and they all have a 10 per cent profit sharing stake in the company. He is a fountain of ideas, not always practical, and is affectionately called the Ayatollah by a new member of the staff.

Mr Michael Gilhooly, aged 40, first visited the Algarve about five years ago and promptly bought a house on the Vale do Lobo estate. He played professional football for 10 years, and later he became a draughtsman then built up an engineering consultancy, paying numerous visits to the Middle East.

When he reached the Algarve he saw there was room for him to realize a lifetime ambition and become a restaurateur. He has bought a defunct restaurant and is busily restoring and enlarging the building, putting in a second swimming pool for children, as well as a tennis court and a squash court.

known that land or a house is for sale and he is inundated by foreigners willing to pay whatever he asks. The increase can only be disastrous for the Portuguese in the long term.

The examples of two Englishmen show how outsiders can successfully adapt to local conditions. Mr Paul Allen-Luckman, aged 35, first went to the Algarve in November, 1973, and decided to stay. Married with two daughters, he now runs the successful Algarve Magazine with a staff of 11. Published monthly, the magazine costs 40 escudos (about 25p), is printed in four colours and has a glossy front cover. With the influx of summer visitors, the sales have been as high as 18,000, although the average monthly circulation is probably about 12,000.

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Mr Allen-Luckman emphasizes that the production is a team effort. There are no prima donnas, and everyone has to take a hard look at everything. He is curious, paternalistic for a capital, have arrived, shattering the quietude of the area. Once peaceful region, smart operators from Lisbon have and they all have a 10 per cent profit sharing stake in the company. He is a fountain of ideas, not always practical, and is affectionately called the Ayatollah by a new member of the staff.

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The beach at Albufeira on the Algarve coast.

The restaurant, to be renamed Le Gastronomie, will seat 50 and will, in his own words, "have the finest international cuisine in Portugal." He says: "I intend to earn a rosette in the Guide Michelin. I shall be importing a cordon bleu chef, who will be one of the highest paid in Portugal."

You have to admire the bravery of these two men, risking their own capital in the furtherance of ambition without exploiting the locals. Curiously, Mr Allen-Luckman and Mr Gilhooly both have red hair and blue eyes, like many Algarvians. There must be something in these ginger-bred men.

That, then, is a microcosm of Algarve life. It is a province, separated from the rest of the country by the Monchique Hills, where difference exists: when sage old men gravely ward the passing traffic and the soaring construction; there in the Notario's office, the age-old rite of signing a document is made official by making a finger print of the index finger of the right hand.

Anthony Jones

From cod to cakes

Culinary challenge

Although cod, cabbage and confectionery seem to many visitors to epitomize the national diet, Portugal's different provinces can provide much more adventurous culinary pleasures than these.

Cod (dried and salted) which they call bacalhau, however, has come to represent a continuous challenge to Portuguese cooks, professional and domestic. "We have as many recipes for it as there are days in the year," a Lisbon restaurateur said proudly; and at a party a local resident boasted his wife is Norwegian because of her feminine charms but that she could cook bacalhau perfectly in 12 different ways.

To the visitor who likes fish, whether from the sea or rivers, with scales or shells, Portugal offers incomparable variety. Restaurants, by the sea or in cities, often have tempting displays of exotic seafood: even market places have vendors of grilled crabs or more lowly marine cousins, and in taverns and bars fish dishes are abundant too. From now until April it is the season for lampreys—most renowned in the northern Minho province, where they are cooked with rice or spiced, while in the region near the Douro canyons they are seasoned in vinegar.

Tourists bored with the kind of bland "international" menus too often served to visitors on pension or package tours, may be happily surprised if they decide to eat out. Find out where the local people go, and you'll nearly always have a far better meal than in most tourist-oriented places. The advice I had recently from a British friend who had lived in Portugal for more than 20 years.

Portugal's imperial links with the East have strongly influenced its native cuisine, and besides the hottest spices, there is imaginative use of coriander, to flavour soups, and some delicious pork dishes. The smoked hams from Chaves and Lamego are especially good: you can also find a local smoked salmon, and smoked swordfish too.

The Portuguese love very sweet puddings, pastries and little cakes, which remind one of those found in the Middle East. Confectioners' windows often have a golden glow, which comes from the display of cakes enriched with egg yolk. Some have fantasizing names such as "angels' breaths" or "nuns' sighs". One guide book only relates that in Amarante, one of the most charming towns in the Minho, there is a legend that on a certain saint's day "elderly bachelors and spinners give each other

cakes of an indecent shape". For the wine-loving traveller, Portugal can seem like a bacchanalian dream. For picnics and thirsty quaffing, it is still possible to buy a drinkable litre of ordinary red or white (but watch out among the whites for bottles of too deep a colour—generally a sign of careless storage, or old age) for less than 50p, but you may pay up to 10 times that price for one of the finer reserve wines of good vintage. An average bottle of a well-known brand or district costs from about 80p to just over £1 at supermarkets and grocers; restaurant prices are generally very reasonable, with house wines often starting at well under £1 in the more modest places.

Vinho verde—which literally means "green wine"—is verdant in name only: this refers to its youthful character, which is its great charm. If you have enjoyed the gentle, slightly flowery Alentejo at home, in Portugal try its drier "cousin", Casal Garcia, and a lovely silky golden wine, Planalto, made by the same winery, Sogrape.

Among other white wines to seek out is the smooth, dry, greeny gold Bucelas, from vineyards 16 miles north of Lisbon, and most carefully vinified in the cellars of Caves Velhas, its sole producers.

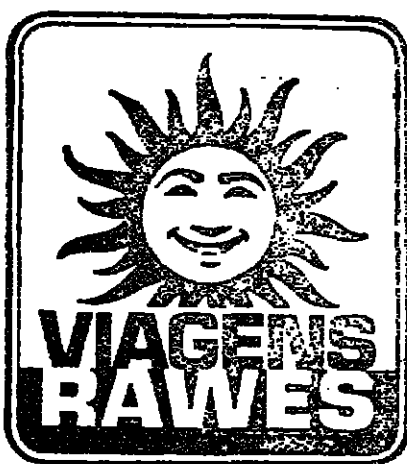
Very light on the palate, and maybe Portugal's future rival to Italy's Soave, is the pale dry golden wine from the Estremadura, produced by the firm of Serra, which also makes a light and fruity red from the same district, as well as producing very well made wines from the Dao.

To mention just a few, look out for the fine Dao Terras Altas (from the house of Fonseca, also producers of the popular fruity, dry white Branco Seco Especial); the fine Dao Caves Velhas, and the smooth and velvety Conde de Santar.

If you enjoy vintage port in Britain, do not be disappointed to find little Portugal—it is nearly all exported to us. Apart from the lodges of the port houses in Oporto, you can find some good ports to taste at the producers' cellars run by the producers in Lisbon and Oporto.

South of Lisbon, in the vineyards of Setúbal, there is made a luscious deep-toned dessert wine from the Moscatel grape. The old vineyards are well worth searching for, and of course, there are many splendid old madeiras with which to complete your bacchanalian experiments.

Joyce Rackham



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Scenery certain to be spectacular

Planning a trip with pousadas in mind

Portugal has a network of 24 pousadas—literally, resting places—scattered around the country, some in ancient castles, palaces or monasteries, others built by the state but all placed in regions of interest and designed to incorporate the best in local food, wine, decoration and hospitality.

An interesting variant on the normal sun-seeking holiday is to plan a car trip through the country to take in as many of the historic pousadas as possible. Your route will be dictated by the country, and the scenery is certain to be spectacular. The pousadas are situated along the various coasts, in the mountains, on the plains and in the Algarve. Their prices are reasonable and their food and wine of a high standard.

A good place to start is the charming walled town of Obidos about 100m north of Lisbon where the Pousada do Castelo, a national monument, is installed in a castle built by King Dinis as a prison for his wife, Queen Isabel, in the fourteenth century.

The battlements around the town were originally Moorish, for Obidos was captured from the Moors in 1148 as the Christian forces pushed southwards to expel them from the peninsula. The pousada has 11 beds and is one of the earliest converted. Graham Greene used to spend his holidays there and, although Josefa of Obidos, a famous Portuguese primitive artist worked there, Obidos has never developed into the sort of artists' colony that similar places in France have.

Obidos is romantic in various ways: in one of the town's Renaissance churches infant princes were betrothed and one of the gateways was built by a local man (who was serving as a magistrate in Portuguese Goa) in memory of his daughter, said to have died of the love of an Obidos boy. The whole preserved as a national monument, the town lies a little to the south of Roliça where Wellington fought his first battle against the French in the Peninsular War of 1808. The sea and good beaches are

close by, as are the town of Peniche and the island of Berlenga off the coast, both worth a visit.

A good half day's drive southwards will take you to Evora and the pousada with 54 rooms sited in the Convento dos Lóios. The convent was built between 1485 and 1591 for the order of St John the Evangelist and is on the site of the former Roman castle. Evora is a baroque city of Manueline, baroque and renaissance styles, a place filled with fountains and known as the "museum city" because of the well-preserved ancient buildings and surrounding battlements.

Evora was once the court of the kings of Portugal before the Braganças, who ruled for 300 years, took up residence at the Vila Vicosa near by, where the former palaces are now a national monument open to the public. In front of the pousada stands the remains of the Roman temple to Diana used variously as a mosque by the Moors, a church by the Christians, and even a municipal slaughterhouse before being left to crumble into ruins.

Completing the Alentejo triangle of pousadas are those at Estremoz and Elvas, with the former being the most interesting of the three. Its 44 rooms are in a castle dating from 1258 and called Pousada da Rainha Santa Isabel after the wife of King Dinis who, as a helper of the poor, was later sanctified.

The castle still has its 27 meter deep moat and the bedrooms have four-poster beds. The room where Queen Isabel died became a chapel and the whole inn is tastefully furnished with antiques and restored furniture and Portuguese arraiolos carpets. The pousada at Elvas, built on the outskirts of the town, is a new building with good views over the surrounding countryside towards the Spanish border near by. The food is excellent, especially some of the fish dishes.

In 1981 the state tourist office is, for the first time, making a special effort to promote Portugal's 43 spas as tourist resorts. Because of the variety of waters available, spa enthusiasts can

make a European spa tour in one country, when visiting Portugal. But the spas, which have 11 per cent of the national bed capacity, are not merely places at which to take the waters, and the tourist board hopes to alter their image as resorts for the sick or elderly.

Many of the better spas offer a variety of sporting possibilities, together with walks in the countryside and the peace and quiet of remote sites.

Package deals are now being offered to attract tourists from Italy, West Germany and Scandinavia to attract groups to the spas, almost all of which are situated in the verdant hills north of the country. Spas in Portugal date back 2,000 years and are usually found along the great military roads, leading to Rome because Roman travellers used them for relaxation and recuperation, precisely the ends to which visitors put them today.

The spa in the wild and spectacular nature reserve of Peneda-Gerês is a particularly remote but worthwhile place for a visit. Groups bound for this spa are able to go on walking tours through the reserve, a new venture yet to be fully exploited.

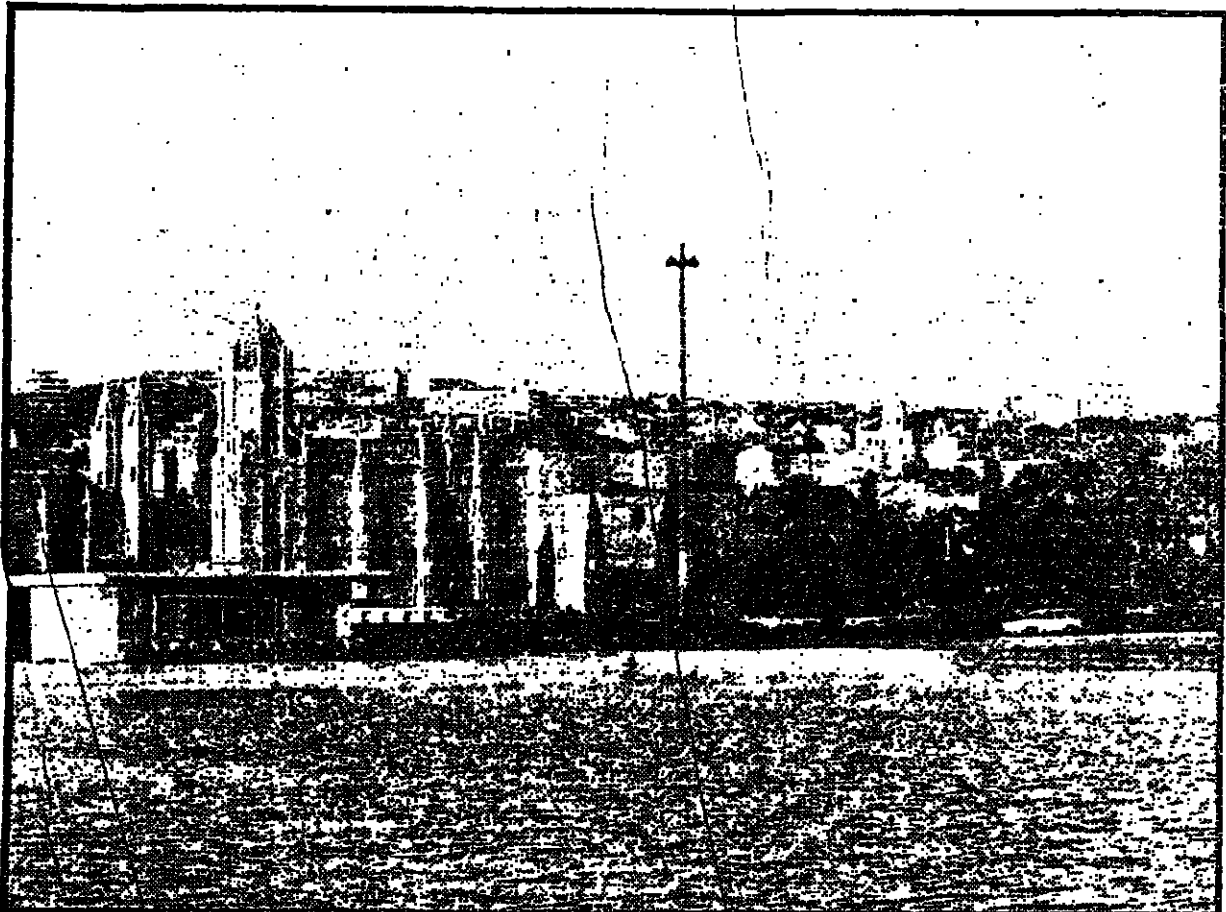
Another spa with great attractions is that at Vidago, for decades the "in" place of the Portuguese upper classes who took their families there every summer. Vidago was opened in 1893 and is the sort of place Marcel Proust would have been at home in. Its 320-room Palace Hotel, in the baroque style, speaks of the belle époque and was built by King Carlos I as one of his residences. It was regularly used by the royal family, and the Portuguese writers Ferreira de Castro and Ramalho Ortigao have been other famous visitors.

The art nouveau decorations it features are genuine and some of the best examples of the genre in the country. The parklike surroundings and the relatively isolated situation make it an ideal getaway place for a holiday, and the grounds include a nine-hole golf course, tennis courts, a swimming-pool and a small airstrip.

J.F.



A chat and a drink in Rossio, the main square of Central Lisbon. Below: the monastery of Jeronimos, with Lisbon in the background.



The platform of the Santa Justa lift affords a magnificent view over Lisbon.

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City high in the charm league

Where tram still delights

If I were to award star ratings in the league table of Europe's most appealing and civilized cities, Lisbon would be high in the constellation. Although long-term expatriate residents, and countless Lisboens complain that their town is not what it was, to the visitor Lisbon retains unspoiled qualities which many northern and southern European cities have irretrievably lost.

One of its finest assets is the wealth and variety of its architecture, from the splendours of the medieval and Manueline, to deliciously flamboyant nineteenth-century, superb art nouveau, and lots of art deco as well. Lisbon is a great city to stroll around, but be sure to wear your most comfortable shoes, and take a taxi, bus, tram, or the elevator to the highest point, and then amble downhill.

The elevator, I must explain, is one of many relics of Anglo-Lusitanian civil enterprise—a huge lift encased in a magnificent cage of Gothic design, built in 1901 by the British firm of Wayss.

The interior, of fumed oak, bears well-polished plaques designating them as lift makers to "His Britannic Majesty". It only costs 4 escudos (about 3p) to ride in, and you step out on a terrace with breathtaking views all over the city and down to the river front.

The Tagus, now spanned by a magnificent and graceful modern bridge, is so broad that when you look down hill from the Avenida da Liberdade, you might imagine you were seeing the sea. It is great fun to cross it in one of the sturdy "rubs" which operate a continuous ferry service.

For the equivalent of 10p you can take one to Cacilhas, now, alas, a rather down-at-heel township. Make straight for the restaurant Floresta do Ginjal, where you walk up a staircase intricately embellished with shells to a dining room with a splendid view over the waterfront, and excellent fish dishes and seafood.

For tram-deprived Britons those in Lisbon provide a most amusing and illuminating method of travel. You ask for a electrico—the finest, in my mind, are the oldest—painted bright yellow, and manufactured in Wednesbury about 1900 with paneled wood interiors and lots of polished brass. They sway, grind, clatter and clang up seemingly impossible heights, and it can be hilarious when two come "face to face" at a busy junction, and solidly comfortable, is

one has to slide back to give way to the other. One fine worth remembering goes uphill from the pretty Largo do Carmo, by the archaeological museum, up to the rue San Pedro de Alcantara, with a small park with more marvellous views over the city and a welcome haven for footsore travellers, the Solar do Vinho do Porto, the official tasting centre of the port producers. Housed in an elegant eighteenth-century palace, and luxuriously furnished, it provides a range of ports from the most delicate white to venerable rawies and great vintages reasonably priced.

On Tuesdays and Saturdays there is a flea market, Feira de Lada (literally the thieves' fair), which extends up a maze of streets in the picturesque old Alfama district, the home of many taverns, some now spoilt by being "tamed" for tourist Lisbon-by-night, where the melancholy and often haunting local fado music is played and sung.

I satified both hunger and thirst in a tiny, rascally where my neighbours were gypsy market traders. The women wore voluminous pleated skirts and gathered aprons, and were surrounded by some beautiful children. For less than 40p I had a bowl of rich vegetable soup, superb bread and a pitcher of very drinkable white wine.

Museums in Lisbon can occupy enthusiasts for days, extending from those devoted to coaches and maritime matters to the splendours of the arte antiqua, with national treasures of painting, gold, silver and tapestries. Then there is the superbly designed Gulbenkian, with its lovely gardens and patios.

While the Gulbenkian displays some precious art nouveau, you can also see some in the streets around the fashionable rua Garrett and rua do Carmo, in shop fronts with beautifully etched glass, splendidly inscribed—sometimes with evocative paintings.

Lisbon has many good hotels, but be sure to avoid rooms overlooking the main avenues, which are impossibly noisy from early morning, and refuse to be booked into multi-story ultra-modern places too far from the vicinity of the grandiose Marques de Pombal monument and square. Near by is the elegant Ritz, which has one of the city's prettiest restaurants, and offers Sunday brunch "to the strains of the celestial harp".

Most conveniently placed, and solidly comfortable, is the four-star Hotel Florida (listed by Sovereign Holidays and Abreu Holidays). This is just off the Praça de Pombal, and quiet; not far away, overlooking the pretty Eduardo VII park, is the well-run three-star Hotel Miraparque (listed by Sunours of Whitney and Portugal Holidays).

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J.R.

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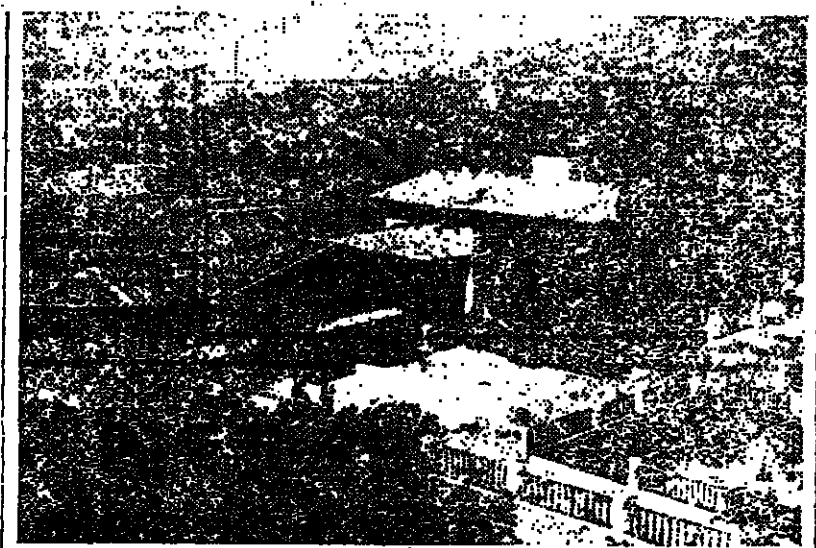
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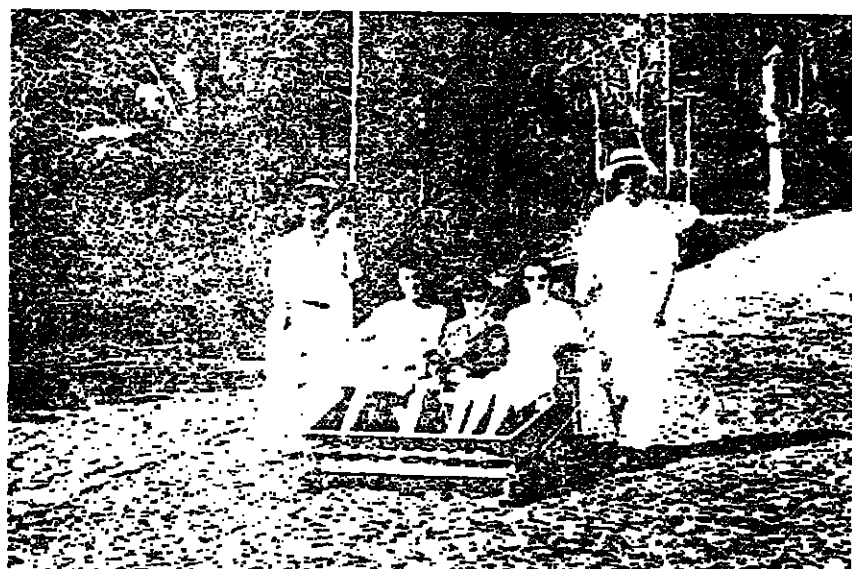
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The jet age began for Madeira only in 1962, when the airstrip was inaugurated on its small neighbouring island of Porto Santo. Historically, it was fitting that this landing ground preceded Madeira's airport, for the celebrated voyage of Joao Gonçalves Zarco, one of Prince Henry the Navigator's heroic explorers, ended in a landfall in 1419 at Porto Santo. The voyage was beset by terrible storms, and the sailors named the area "holy port" in gratitude for their safe arrival.

Later, Zarco returned to

establish a Portuguese colony, whose prosperity grew until checked by a French pirate incursion in 1566, and 60 years of Spanish occupation. This ended in 1640, when Portugal finally regained its lost territories. Twenty years later, Charles II's marriage to Catherine of Braganza brought the first Brazos, whose "colony" soon developed a prosperous wine trade with Britain.

Wine now represents more than 11 per cent of the regional product, and about 16 per cent of total exports—the bulk of which earns foreign currency in EEC countries (notably France). These exports dipped in 1980, the first year in which the Community's prohibition of imports of Madeiran wine made from any hybrid grapes took effect.

More interesting still is the covered market with its colourful displays of exotic fruit and fish. The fish hall is surprisingly clean and smells little, despite the large amount of fish and the various chopping up operations taking place even on a hot afternoon. However, it is still a pleasure to leave all that and wander among the fruit-sellers in traditional costumes on ground level and round the gallery. Everyone is happy to pose for pictures.

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Susano Franca, the Economic Secretary to the regional Government, said: "We are very preoccupied by the problem of bananas, because from the open market those from South America are much cheaper—but Portugal saves currency by buying ours." If Portugal joins the EEC, the Community's present commitment to buy bananas from Third World countries would certainly affect the future of Madeiran producers.

Diversification into more intensive production and export of the island's fine subtropical fruits, as well as early vegetables, could eventually be much more lucrative. "But with such difficulties to cultivate, so many small farmers, we do not have the best conditions," Dr Franca pointed out.

The island's largest source of foreign currency is remittances from the one million Madeiran emigrants living in

Venezuela, Brazil, North Africa, Europe and South Africa (where there are about 300,000—as many as the island's population). Dr Franca said that in 1980, emigrants were estimated to have sent home about £47m. "Since they also bank and invest a lot of money in Portugal, it is impossible to calculate the total exactly," he added. One mixed blessing from their wealth is a boom in house and apartment building, especially in and around Funchal and Machico.

Senhor Alberto Joao Jardim, the regional Premier, said that, cement consumption had risen 100 per cent annually since 1977, and that there was full employment in the building industry. Many Madeirans criticize the adverse effects of such building booms on the environment in high density areas such as Funchal. Even worse, they say, is the rise in building costs. It is much dearer to build a flat now in Funchal than it is in Lisbon

and for new hotel enterprises the cost per room is equally daunting. At present there is little building in that area. Madeira's balance of payments reached a deficit in 1980 of about £54m (it imports about 85 per cent of consumer goods, capital equipment and food) but Dr Susano Franca considers that the benefits from emigrant remittances, as well as earnings from tourism (conservatively estimated at about £34m in 1980), more than offset this.

With Senhor José Ribeiro de Andrade, director of Madeira tourism for the past 12 years, I discussed the progress which had brought the total of visitors from 84,500 in 1970 to more than 257,000 in the boom year, 1977. "We estimate that, on average, tourists spend about 2,500 escudos (just over £20) a day and this benefits everyone from folk dancers to fishermen, taxi drivers and traders," he said.

Until 1975, Germany headed foreign tourists since then the British have overtaken them, and so have the Portuguese, who are attracted on currency for holidays abroad. Ironically, the end of 1977 was marked by the first two airliner crashes at Madeira's airport: one caused a notable decline in the number of tourists from Belgium, Sweden and Germany. But we were saved by the British, whose numbers continued to increase—reaching the record figure of more than 64,000 in 1980, which represented over a quarter of all tourists that year.

Inflation, now running at about 21 per cent, has noticeably put up hotel and restaurant prices, but not unfairly, while domestic fares (once among Europe's cheapest) have risen steeply—an obvious cause of the drop in visitors from the Continent, as Madeirans describe Portugal.

One of the island's major problems, both for tourism and for the economy, is the danger of isolation caused by strikes, whether by the national airline (only scheduled) or, as happened last year with serious consequences, by Portuguese air traffic controllers. Among the positive benefits of Madeira's autonomy is the determination of its Government to meet such situations resolutely, by chartering aircraft to get tourists home for example. Last year the even used military aircraft for emergency cases.

Madeirans talk wistfully about having their own airline. More realistic, and likely to attract foreign investment, would be the resumption of a regular passenger and cargo ship service between Lisbon and Funchal.

Joyce Rackham

Record year for British tourists despite inflation

Madeira

'Fairy tale' Funchal is really practical

From a distance Funchal may look like the fairy tale capital of an island paradise but close up it is a practical town, bustling with activity and clogged with traffic jams at rush hours. Because tourism was not developed until the 1960s on Madeira, Funchal has remained largely unspoilt by development. A number of excellent new hotels with their much-needed pools have changed the view a little, but the old heart of Funchal survives and here or there a square or street still looks like a set from a long-forgotten Hollywood movie perhaps located in some never-never colony.

The cathedral, consecrated in 1516, is the island's finest monument. In Gothic style, with three naves, its walls are of red stone, and the triangular tower may be climbed by a spiral staircase. It contains a fine sixteenth-century gold procession cross. Other churches worth looking at are the Colegiu Church, Carmo Church and the Church of Santa Clara.

There are a number of museums of rather specialized interest: the Municipal Museum, which is a natural science museum, in a building shared by the municipal library and the aquarium; the Quinta das Cruzes, Museum of decoration

and sculpture; and the Religious Art Museum devoted mainly to painting, especially of the Flemish School.

There are three pleasant gardens in which to refresh your explorations: the Municipal Gardens, the City Park and the Botanical Gardens with their wide variety of trees and flowers, and the occasional public monument. On their much smaller scale they provide the kind of respite from noise and bustle that Hyde Park does in London.

More interesting still is the covered market with its colourful displays of exotic fruit and fish. The fish hall is surprisingly clean and smells little, despite the large amount of fish and the various chopping up operations taking place even on a hot afternoon. However, it is still a pleasure to leave all that and wander among the fruit-sellers in traditional costumes on ground level and round the gallery. Everyone is happy to pose for pictures.

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who had difficulty walking. Finally if you go to Monte, high above Funchal, you will be able to try the toboggan. This is a slightly frightening experience; a wicker basket for two set on greased wooden runners is guided down the steeply sloping and curving stone-paved street at great speed by two men with ropes and enormous strength.

You can take buses for the various trips that can be made from Funchal, but it is much better to hire a car (from about £10 a day) or even take a taxi for the day. It takes at least two days to see the island. There are basically two areas to explore: the coast route right around the island and the mountains of the interior.

Some of the scenery is quite spectacular, for example the panorama of Funchal from Pico dos Barcelos or the view from Eira do Serrado (altitude, 1,026 metres) of the village of Curral das Freiras and the high peaks of Madeira. The narrow coast road between Sao Vicente and Seixal is carved through the rock or just over the sea and Sanja, a village in the curves through waterfalls. Take a pullover and raincoat for the mountain trip.

Places to visit are Camara de Lobos, a rather smelly but picturesque fishing vil-



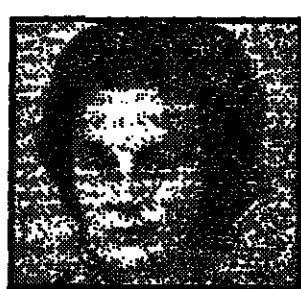
The ox-sledge is a traditional form of transport on Madeira.

lage with natural harbour only 9km from Funchal; Santana, a village in the north with colourful triangular thatched-roof cottages; Camacha, the centre of the big peaks of Madeira. The narrow coast road between Sao Vicente and Seixal is carved through the rock or just over the sea and Sanja, a village in the curves through waterfalls. Take a pullover and raincoat for the mountain trip.

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Joyce Rackham looks at three careers



Senhora Isabel Camara is a director of Madeira Superbia, one of the island's leading firms making the embroidered linens and fine tapestries which are the island's second most important export. She became a partner eight years ago after the death of her mother, who founded the firm in 1951.

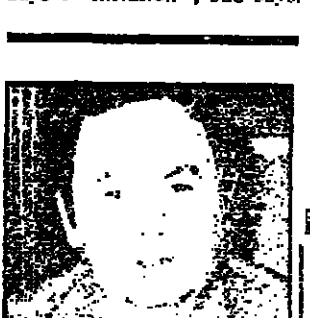
Today about 15,000 women, nearly all working at home, are embroidering in Madeira, a tradition started about a century ago by an English-

woman, Miss Phelps, who went to Madeira for health reasons. Unfortunately most of the young girls, who learnt from their mothers and grandmothers, are not taking to embroidery with the same enthusiasm.

Many prefer jobs outside the home of even the most menial domestic kind. "It is very sad," Senhora Camara says. They export a lot of fine lingerie and clothes specially designed for France. Some of the most luxurious bedlinen goes to Italy, table linen and tapestry pictures to the United States. British tourists, she says, can rarely afford the expensive items, but the Germans can.

Senhora Camara combines her work at the Funchal showroom (with branches in Lisbon and Estoril) with running a home full of English and Portuguese antiques. It is an old family house—and a sign of the times—the ground floor is let to an "English-style pub". The first floor is a museum.

Far more Madeiran women like myself now have to work, to help the family budget in these days of inflation," she says.



Senhor Jose Barreto is the chairman of ITI (Sociedade de Investimentos Turisticos na Ilha de Madeira), the Portuguese and German consortium which made the 590m investment to build the Casino Park—the island's largest luxury hotel—and the adjoining casino and 650-seat conference centre. After the 1974 revolution caused considerable delays

in finishing the buildings, hours a day—"Work is like a hobby for me"—but now he is slowing down. The complex employs more than 700 people, has given work to considerably more than 1,000 people, and, Senhor Barreto, a genial, unassuming man aged 44, was born in Beira, Mozambique, where his father, Antonio Barreto, headed a family with large interests in ship repairing, cars and timber in Angola and the Congo. "When the revolution came we lost everything there, and had to start all over again."

He had already left Africa in the 1950s to take a course in business studies in Portugal, and he spent five of the best years of his life in Madeira as if it were my Britain. He likes family holidays in such places as Salcombe and Torquay else.

The Portuguese Government offered his father the concession to build the casino and hotel in Madeira in 1965. "When he signed the contract, he told me to take the next plane. I had just married, and was a honeymooner, as I had to start work immediately," Senhor Barreto said that for 15 years he worked 15 to 20

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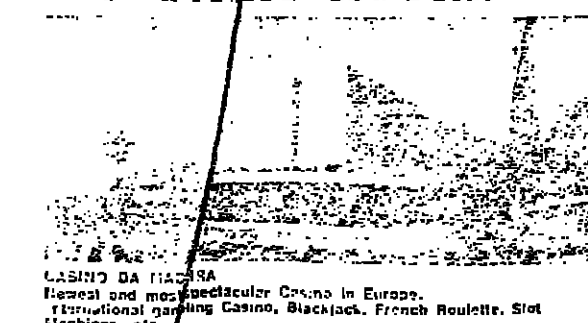
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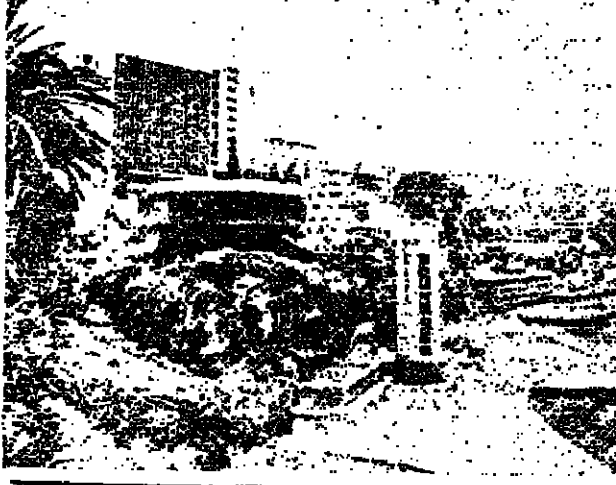
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RETROSPECTIVE AND RETROGRADE

Sir Geoffrey Howe's third Budget did not get a good press. In most respects, however, he was cleaving to his hard, high road to sound money and a profitable private corporate sector for the economy. He kept his back turned firmly against those, including many of his own Cabinet colleagues, who argue that there can be no escape from the recession without deliberately increased demand in the economy.

But there is one important aspect in which he broke his general belief in the importance of positive supply-side economic policies. His deliberate attack on the profits of the banks and of the oil companies was unnecessary and damaging. The purpose of this Government's economic policies is to create the conditions in which profit is encouraged. It is quite contrary to his general philosophy to introduce budget measures aimed specifically at two industries on the sole grounds that in a time of very great general economic difficulty they are making significant profits.

ELECTION SHADOW ON THE WEST BANK

Since the announcement of a general election in Israel two months ago, the right wing Government of Mr Menachem Begin has been unmistakably tightening its grip on the occupied West Bank. The aim—as a Housing Ministry spokesman put it—was to create new facts on the ground. In order that no incoming administration should be able to relax or even remove Israeli control over the West Bank after the election in June.

The latest move in Mr Begin's campaign is the announcement that next month a magistrature will open on the West Bank, with jurisdiction over the Jewish settlement of Kiryat Arba. The settlement, a large state of concrete apartment blocks surrounded by barbed wire, overlooks the Arab-populated town of Hebron, and has frequently been the scene of tension between Arab and Jew. The establishment of a Jewish court is regarded by many West Bank Arabs as the thin end of a wedge which will ultimately be used to extend Israeli jurisdiction over an area still formally subject to the old Jordanian laws. This follows an intensive

The retrospective windfall tax on banks ought to be particularly offensive to a Government that is in favour of encouraging profit. Gradually over the past ten or so years the general public has been educated to an understanding that profit is a clean and not a dirty word. Even the last Labour government encouraged a much greater public understanding of the need for profits and profitability. These two measures in the Chancellor's latest budget are, therefore, particularly retrograde. In addition, retrospective legislation of any sort ought to be avoided as a matter of principle in an open society. To penalise banks, or anyone else for that matter, on a basis that was not known at the time the business was legitimately done is quite simply wrong. The banks are quite right to react as strongly as they have. It is ironic that it should once more be a Conservative government that is at loggerheads with an important section of the City.

It is, of course, true that there is a windfall element in the profits of banks and other financial institutions in a period of high interest rates. It is also presentational difficulty that banks tend to make high profits in a period when the rest of private sector is at the bottom of the profit cycle. That, however, is no reason for any Government (and least of all this one) to pander to the worst kind of ill-informed populism. There are enough legitimate criticisms that can be made of the banks (and for that matter of some of the oil companies). Despite their protestations to the contrary, the banks and other financial institutions have been slow to develop creative and long-term methods of financing new industry. The oil companies have been allowed to do too little by way of developing new ancillary industries in the United Kingdom. It is in these areas that progress could be made, not through another attack on legitimate profit.

programme of settlement building, aimed at establishing as strong a Jewish presence as possible before June. The Israeli Labour Party, which is widely expected to win the election, rejects Mr Begin's policy, which it describes as "aiming at the annexation of the whole West Bank and Gaza and their inhabitants". In view of the "social and moral quality of the State of Israel," Labour also "rejects permanent imposed rule over the 1,200,000 Palestinian inhabitants" of the occupied territories. Mr Peres has said that if he becomes Prime Minister he will move towards setting up a state "within which the identity of the Palestinians can find expression", preferably through negotiations with neighbouring Jordan.

In practice it might well be very difficult to undo what Mr Begin has done "on the ground". There are in any case doubts over whether Labour will really wish to do so. It was a Labour government, after all, which first established settlements in the occupied territories. In his interview with our Jerusalem Correspondent which we report today, Mr Peres states that he does not

intend to build more settlements, but adds that he will not dismantle existing ones, including those rushed into being by Mr Begin. As our Correspondent suggests, this may be election politics, with Mr Peres not wanting to be seen as "softer" than Mr Begin. It could be that Mr Peres is hoping that the main election issue—the dismal state of the Israeli economy—will sweep him to power, and that he can then take a flexible and imaginative line on the Palestinian question after all.

If that is the case, there may yet be a solution on the West Bank acceptable to Palestinian moderates. The question of which Jewish settlements should go and which might stay would then be a matter for negotiation, as Mr Peres has (until now) said it would be. Hardline elements among the Arabs—including the Palestine Liberation Organisation—have always feared any such moves toward a reasonable solution and have used Mr Begin as a bogeyman to justify their own dogmatism. For Mr Peres to emerge as not noticeably different from Mr Begin could only encourage the forces of extremism on both sides.

Speaking to all Northern Ireland

From Dr Brian Feeney
Sir, Mrs Thatcher has done a grave disservice to the cause of peace and harmony in Northern Ireland, both in her speech last Thursday and in the form of a letter to her visit. Several points she made quite clear: that she had come to reassure people, restate the British guarantee to Unionists in Northern Ireland, and to show by a £50m grant to the Northern Ireland Electricity Service that there is no immediate economic withdrawal. There are other conclusions to be drawn from her visit. First, violence, or the threat of it, pays off because it produces action from Mrs Thatcher. Her last lightning visit was immediately after the slaughter of the paramilitaries in 1979 by the IRA. Now Ian Paisley's intimidatory antics have galvanised her into action again. She reacts to extremism. Indeed she plays into the hands of extremists by her own actions. She is a discredited figure operating through the political process.

Her speech on March 5 was the most sectarian ever made by a British Prime Minister since Ireland was partitioned. Previous Prime Ministers have nodded in the direction of a substantial disarming and disaffected minority in Northern Ireland (which the 1981 census will show to be bigger than ever). Not Mrs Thatcher. She addressed herself to Unionists only. She spoke of the "people of Northern Ireland" as if they are one when they are notoriously divided. But when she spoke of "your UDR, that Defence Regiment" it was obvious her remarks were for one section only of the divided community because the UDR is predominantly Protestant and some of its members have been shown to have been closely associated with Protestant terrorists.

Mrs Thatcher then went on to speak of the dead, but even these—529 she mentioned—were only of one community (it's true the other 1,500 no longer exist). How can she imagine she was helpful when those very people she felt impelled to address in such an exclusive manner have, by their intransigence, ensured no prospect of harmony in these islands, no place for their Catholic fellow citizens in Northern Ireland?

Mrs Thatcher repeated the British Government's guarantee to the Unionists and added her own personal attachment to it thereby

encouraging their intransigence, buttressing their beleaguered mental prison. Now that Mrs Thatcher has so firmly nailed her colours to the Unionist mast, now that she has sided so clearly with the exclusive doctrines of Unionist bigotry the IRA can say: "We told you so. This proves the nationalist people will never be seen or treated on an equal footing with Unionists". Because not only did the Prime Minister not mention the anti-Unionist she ignored them in studied fashion, visiting only factories deliberately sited in exclusively Protestant areas by previous Unionist governments, and flying along the Fermanagh Marches in a helicopter gunship.

Paisley has succeeded in driving her deeper into sentimental Unionism than any British political leader since Bonar Law. What she ought to do and needs to do quickly, if her really wants to promote any harmony in Ireland, is to take the bull by the horns and announce publicly the validity of Social Democratic and Labour Party policy which she has conceded intellectually last summer.

That a way forward is only possible by joint action of the two sovereign governments in London and Dublin. That the Unionists should now be encouraged to contribute to the joint studies of those two governments.

That her personal guarantee is as worthless as any Act of Parliament which can be repealed. That the Unionists' only real guarantee lies in their own present strength in numbers in the short term and their proven capacities in the long term.

Failure to make this public now only postpones the day of reckoning. Paisley will annihilate the official Unionists in the May elections in direct proportion to the number of reassurances Mrs Thatcher gives. It is impossible to reassure Unionists for they are a diminishing minority in Ireland. She will eventually have to concede the SDLP position publicly. The sooner the better. What she did so unequivocally last Thursday was to make certain that when she does, it will sound like another U-turn.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN FEENEY,
SDLP party executive member,
Vice-chairman,
Belfast district executive.

Morality of Civil Service strike

From Mr John Honeyford
Sir, I knew that Mr Rees-Mogg had left *The Times*, but not that he had been replaced by the ghost of Mr Perceval. It was obvious her remarks were for one section only of the divided community because the UDR is predominantly Protestant and some of its members have been shown to have been closely associated with Protestant terrorists.

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group, regardless of the justice of their demand. To a general strike does this objection apply as strongly as a strike by civil servants against their employer, a government which in a democracy was elected to protect the interests of all the inhabitants of the country. They are blatantly using their power to close airports, museums, computer centres, and installations vital for the defence and protection of the realm, in order to obtain financial benefits for themselves.

Are there not, in every department of state or government institution, enough civil servants of character and integrity who can see the depths of demoralisation and disaster into which this new development will inevitably lead us; and who can take effective action to refuse to be led by the nose, whether by confused idealists or by the agents of the enemies of the free world? Does not this question demand an answer?

Yours faithfully,
J. C. BEEVOR,
51 Eaton Square, SW1,
March 10.

From Dr Patrick Kemp
Sir, The Civil Service claim for comparability in pay seems very reasonable. The majority of senior civil servants are university men, some of whom are highly qualified as their university mentors. There appears to be a strong case for bringing their salaries into line with those ruling in universities, thereby reducing public expenditure at a stroke.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK KEMP,
University of London,
Gower Street, WC1.

From Mr J. G. Beevor
Sir, Every major strike, whatever its merits, is open to one unavoidable criticism: the PSBR (public sector borrowing requirement) is a device for using force to coerce the community into supporting an increase in wages to a privileged

From Sir Eric Norris
Sir, Both as current Chairman of the Royal Commonwealth Society and as a former High Commissioner to Malaysia, I was distressed to see the news, briefly reported in *The Times* of March 9, that the Malaysian Government had decided to stop the forwarding of students to Britain because of the increase in fees for foreigners.

The issue of student fees is one on which this society, with other concerned organisations, has been campaigning for over a year, and it was a major preoccupation for the society's last president, Malcolm MacDonald, during the last year of his life. How much more evidence of damage to Britain's relationships and long-term interests will the Department of Education and Science need before it reconsiders its policy? As we have warned repeatedly, this will not be long before the growing tide against British education for Britain's friends becomes virtually irreversible.

Yours faithfully,
ERIC NORRIS, Chairman,
Royal Commonwealth Society,
Northumberland Avenue, WC2,
March 11.

From Mr Kenneth Edwards
Sir, Your leader on the Budget (March 11) should be compulsory reading for the Government.

You point your wise finger at the crux of the matter as far as industry is concerned. To curtail public investment because the PSBR (public sector borrowing requirement) has been inflated by dole money and by dear money is a recipe for disaster. . . . a public investment programme would have a net cost far less than the amount committed to it. . . . nor would increased public investment be inflationary.

You then follow with the statement that the Government must be acted upon with the utmost urgency. It is government current spending which is the enemy of revival, not capital spending.

The Government must create the climate industry is urgently awaiting. Your leading article points the way.

As an association we had expected, like you, convincing measures to be taken in the current public expenditure which would provide scope for imaginative investment in public sector capital projects. We were disappointed.

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH EDWARDS,
Chief Executive,
British Electrical and Allied Manufacturers' Association,
8 Leicester Street, WC2,
March 11.

From Mr David Burnett
Sir, It may interest your readers to know that the measured drawings of birds which form a major part of the forthcoming Christie's sale are to be published by us next year in a single volume. It was Charles Tunnicliffe's wish that we should produce this edition. There will therefore be a permanent record of the collection. We shall also publish this October a further volume of bird studies from the sketchbooks.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID BURNETT,
Victor Colman Ltd,
14 Henrietta Street, WC2.

From Mr Evan Luard
Sir, Can Sir Kennedy Trevellick (March 7) explain why, if we provide arms for rebels in South Yemen, Ethiopia and Afghanistan as he suggests, we should expect the Soviet Union and Cuba not to send arms to rebels in El Salvador?

Yours, etc,
ALFRED FRIENDLY,
1645 31st Street North West,
Washington DC.

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The Government must create the climate industry is urgently awaiting. Your leading article points the way.

From Mr David Burnett
Sir, It may interest your readers to know that the measured drawings of birds which form a major part of the forthcoming Christie's sale are to be published by us next year in a single volume. It was Charles Tunnicliffe's wish that we should produce this edition. There will therefore be a permanent record of the collection. We shall also publish this October a further volume of bird studies from the sketchbooks.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID BURNETT,
Victor Colman Ltd,
14 Henrietta Street, WC2.

From Mr Evan Luard
Sir, Can Sir Kennedy Trevellick (March 7) explain why, if we provide arms for rebels in South Yemen, Ethiopia and Afghanistan as he suggests, we should expect the Soviet Union and Cuba not to send arms to rebels in El Salvador?

Yours, etc,
ALFRED FRIENDLY,
1645 31st Street North West,
Washington DC.

From Mr Kenneth Edwards
Sir, Your leader on the Budget (March 11) should be compulsory reading for the Government.

You point your wise finger at the crux of the matter as far as industry is concerned. To curtail public investment because the PSBR (public sector borrowing requirement) has been inflated by dole money and by dear money is a recipe for disaster. . . . a public investment programme would have a net cost far less than the amount committed to it. . . . nor would increased public investment be inflationary.

You then follow with the statement that the Government must be acted upon with the utmost urgency. It is government current spending which is the enemy of revival, not capital spending.

The Government must create the climate industry is urgently awaiting. Your leading article points the way.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Echoes of the 'Venice' libel action

From Lord Goodman, CH, and Mr Peter Carter-Ruck
Sir, It is perhaps natural that Mr Levin (March 10) should wish to demonstrate to the new regime that his undoubted genius for scurrilous remains undiminished. In his long piece about the famous "Venice" libel action he attacks with an even-handed impartiality and an equal want of justification almost everyone in the case. Whether they be alive or dead is a matter of indifference to him. He attacks the judge (now dead), the plaintiff's leading counsel (now dead), the defendant's leading counsel (now dead), and all three plaintiffs (all dead), and of course he pays special tribute to the signatories to this letter, who are and were the senior partners in the two firms of solicitors concerned.

In this torrent of invective, Mr Levin unhappily obscures the few really salient facts, which are unusual but very simple.

Three gentlemen of public standing believed that they had been accused of being intoxicated in the course of the performance of their duties at a Labour conference in Venice. The allegation appeared in a reputable weekly newspaper. A complaint was made to the newspaper by their solicitors and passed on to the newspaper's solicitors.

Subsequently, the primary issue between the parties, which was conducted with vigour and most certainly at arm's length, was the question of the terms of an apology. This gave rise to a special difficulty to the defendants which was known to the plaintiffs at the time. The author of the piece, against whom no threat of action was made or subsequent action taken, obviously maintained that his statement was true.

As for Mr Levin, he is the most famous *Litton* of his generation. Taking this charitable view, we believe it possible that he does not understand the implications of what he writes. If, when they are explained to him, he is minded to repeat them either in your columns or elsewhere, we should make it clear that we should not then be satisfied with writing a letter to deal with this or subsequent statements.

Finally, it may be known to readers of *Richard Crossman's* diaries that the first signatory became a friend of Mr Crossman (as he can claim) and trusted adviser. In that capacity he had a unique opportunity of forming a judgment about this immensely talented, quick-witted and at times even great man. But it was clear that he possessed a streak of mischief and irresponsibility—known to all his colleagues—that would make them profoundly mistrustful of any critical judgment about the people with whom he worked or associated. This view will certainly be in mind by those who knew him and read his diaries.

Yours faithfully,
GOODMAN,
Goodman Derrick and Co.,
9-11 Fulwood Place,
Gray's Inn, WC1.

PETER CARTER-RUCK,
Oswald Hickson Collier and Co.,
Essex House,
Essex Street,
Strand, WC2,
March 11.

Electing a Labour leader

From the General Secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union
Sir, I was concerned to see in *The Times* of March 6 a report by your Labour Editor that the TGWU vote might eventually be cast for a formula giving Labour MP's half the votes in elections for the party leader.

In fact the union's general executive council in session last week decided to accept the decision taken by the Labour Party special conference at Wembley for the 30-30-40 formula.

This despite the defeat of our proposal at the Wembley conference for equal shares for the principal constituent bodies—with 1 per cent for constituent affiliated organisations.

Yours sincerely,
MOSS EVANS,
Transport and General Workers' Union,
Transport House,
Smith Square,
Westminster, SW1,
March 9.

Worlds apart

From Dr I. D. Hill
Sir, You report in *The Times* of March 2 that galaxies have been discovered 10,000 million light years away from us. It is also said that astronomers believe the universe to be 18,000 million years old. The discovery is said to support the Big Bang theory of how the universe began.

However, if the light has taken 10,000 million years, only 8,000 million years remain for these galaxies and ourselves to separate to such a distance, indicating a relative velocity of 11 times the speed of light. To a layman in these matters, this would appear to be a conclusive argument against the Big Bang hypothesis. Can some cosmologist please explain?

Yours faithfully,
I. D. HILL,
Laverton,
Berry Lane,
Chorleywood,
Hertfordshire,
March 5.

From Sir Hugh Casson
Sir, I entirely agree with Mr Denis Mahon's letter (March 10) deploring the proposed sale and probable dispersal of the unique collection of drawings by Charles Tunnicliffe.

The Royal Academy would have been proud to look after them (as we believe was the artist's wish) but what is of greatest importance is that they should be preserved as a whole. There surely could be no better home for them than at the National Museum of Wales.

Yours faithfully,
HUGH CASSON, President,
Royal Academy of Arts,
Piccadilly, W1,
March 10.

for an allegation involving an acceptance by the defendants as clearly meaning that they were drunk.

Although they do not require any defence from us, it is right to put on record the injustice of Mr Levin's attacks on the dead counsel. Mr Gilbert Beyfus, QC, was a counsel of eminence and in justice to him it should be clearly stated (and there is evidence of the highest responsibility on this point) not only of ourselves that he carefully warned the plaintiffs of the great danger to their reputations if they continued with the action and went into the witness box to make assertions that were subsequently disproved. Such warnings were also conveyed to them by all their other legal advisers. In the face of such warnings the three men deliberately decided that they would pursue the action and thereby possibly stake their whole careers on its outcome.

In denigrating the late Fearnley-Whittinghall, QC, who was held in high regard, Mr Levin was no doubt unaware that—unknown to Sir Ian or his solicitors—Mr Fearnley-Whittinghall was suffering from a very serious illness of which he had only been informed a few hours before the start of that trial. In addition, the second signatory does not recollect that any suggestion was made at any time critical of the late Mr Fearnley-Whittinghall's dedication to the difficult circumstances of this case. It is also relevant to point out that however skilled the advocate who was conducting the case, his hands were tied by circumstances over which he had no control. His function was to do nothing that might aggravate the damages.

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PETER CARTER-RUCK,
Oswald Hickson Collier and Co.,
Essex House,
Essex Street,
Strand, WC2,
March 11.

Sale of 'The Observer'

From Mr David Astor and others
Sir, The proposed sale of a majority holding in *The Observer* by Atlantic Richfield (Arco) to another giant company, Lonrho, deserves to be publicly examined for several reasons.

First, Mr Anderson, Chairman of Arco and *The Observer*, concealed this sale from *The Observer's* directors and staff, apparently fearing their protest; it was intended to be a secret deal. Second, the business interests of Arco and Lonrho are extensive, complex and politically sensitive; if they jointly owned the paper, the number of countries where *The Observer* would have to be editorially careful would be great.

The only way in which these matters could be ventilated would be by the Government referring the transaction to the Monopolies Commission. There is no real objection to this course. Two such wealthy companies could easily sustain the paper during the few weeks of an inquiry.

At the end, we might or might not know more about the intentions of these companies. But at least the inquiry would have given time for other possible purchasers to come forward, who might be equally or more suitable to take over the property. After all, *The Observer's* staff and its million or more readers feel that the paper belongs, at least in part, also to them.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID ASTOR,
HUGH GREENE,
CONOR CRUISE O'BRIEN,
9 Cavendish Avenue, NW5,
March 11.

True setting for royal ring

From Mr Clive Farnham
Sir, Since the royal wedding is to be held at St Paul's instead of Westminster Abbey because of its few hundred extra seats, its location from the Palace, and the ease with which it can accommodate television paraphernalia, one wonders whether other ceremonies—traditionally associated with the Abbey will not also be demoted? Where will they hold the next Coronation?

The Wembley Conference Centre has excellent facilities for television. Stonehenge is further from the Palace and both can accommodate more people without the Dean of St Paul's having to share his walls.

Surely there is no doubt that Westminster Abbey, because of its historical and more recent links with royalty and the fabric of our heritage, is the true home of not only a Coronation but surely a wedding of the heir to the Throne.

Yours faithfully,
CLIVE FARNHAM,
Francis Edwards Limited,
83 Marylebone High Street, W1,
March 5.

PRINCE SIHANOUK TO THE RESCUE?

Kampuchea has never evolved a political society. From the French protectorate in the nineteenth century to the restored and liberated monarchy of the nineteenth-fifties, and from there to the American and Vietnamese communist rivalry of the sixties and seventies, the Pol Pot tyranny and, finally, the Vietnamese-sponsored Heng Samrin Government, Khmer nationalism has never acquired a stable focus. Is there any hope of putting something together now after the slaughter, the hardships, the desertions of the past two decades? Is there any hope in Prince Sihanouk as a symbol? On this last question heads have been shaken sadly for some years past. Yet the gulf that divides right-wing from left-wing guerrilla movements in opposition to the Government now in Phnom Penh has seemed to need the prince as a leader if any kind of coalition is to be formed.

In which case it is as well that the Khmer Rouge have been told in Prince Sihanouk's home of exile in Poyngyang that no government of an independent Kampuchea could entertain the continued existence of Khmer

Rouge guerrillas. On this issue the discussion of a new alliance with Mr Khieu Samphan has broken down. No protestation on the part of the Khmer Rouge that they have disowned past dogmas, or will readily embrace social democracy and care only for an independent government in Phnom Penh, will convince anybody so long as this largest guerrilla force is not willing to be a purely civil partner in a new government. Equally, Son Sann's right-wing Khmer People's National Liberation Front will find in this Khmer Rouge intransigence good reason not to pursue any further talk of an alliance.

This deadlock in Poyngyang probably ends any hope of a united guerrilla movement in opposition to the Heng Samrin Government. It does not mean that the search for a peaceful compromise in Kampuchea must be abandoned. In the past six months there has been a softening on all sides and it is likely to continue. The Chinese have moved away from their persistent backing of the Pol Pot guerrillas. The Asian group know very well that their international case for sustaining the Pol Pot Govern-

ment's legitimacy is growing weaker and may not survive another testing vote at the United Nations. The Thai Government is unhappy at the doubts of their Asian colleagues and with the inflexibility of their Chinese friends. Nor least the Vietnamese are near enough to the brink of economic disaster to be open to any solution that would relieve them of the burden of keeping 200,000 troops in Kampuchea.

If such shifts of opinion mean an opening for a Kampuchean rather than a Sino-Vietnamese/Asian compromise so much the better. The political colour of a future government in Phnom Penh is almost meaningless after what has happened. Even the leaning of such a government to the Chinese or the Vietnamese side ought not to be dictated by Peking or Hanoi, and cannot be in the long run. If Khmer politicians on either side of the fence could share their own alliance a government might result that could banish guerrillas of any kind from its territory. But that would mean Mr Khieu Samphan and any other disillusioned Marxists in the ranks of the Khmer Rouge forsaking the power of the gun.

Sanctions on South Africa

From Mr John Carlisle, MP for Luton, West (Conservative)
Sir, Nicholas Ashford (report, March 2) is right to assert that much of black Africa is openly trading in South African goods, and indeed is being kept alive by South African maize. Do not these facts therefore point to the absolute folly of any intended sanctions?

South Africa is short of but one essential commodity, oil, and obviously a severance of supply could have some effect upon its economy. Such an energy source can be obtained from maize, and the imposition of sanctions could lead to a halt on all maize exports.

Consider then the position of the adjoining states: supportive of a United Nations resolution to bring pressure to a settlement for Namibia, yet risking starvation if a vital food supply line is cut. Certainly the needs of hungry mouths would seem to outweigh a high moral principle. British experience in Rhodesia should indicate that economic sanctions rarely work, and they often impose great hardship on those who invoke them.

The United Nations would do better to concentrate its efforts on seeking South African cooperation than mounting a vindictive campaign that is bound to end in disaster.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN CARLISLE,
House of Commons.

Surrender in Singapore

From the Headmaster of Charterhouse
Sir, "The London Diary" today (March 10) makes reference to the fact that the Union Jack which was carried at the surrender of Singapore to the Japanese now rests in Charterhouse Memorial Chapel.

At the surrender on February 15, 1942, this flag was taken by the Old Charterhouse Colonel C. H. D. Wild, and its subsequent history may well have been those dismayed by the present proposal for a waxwork tableau. At great personal risk Colonel Wild acquired the flag and took it with him when he was imprisoned in the notorious Changi jail. There he and other prisoners courageously concealed it from their captors for three and a half years, an almost incredible achievement.

On September 12, 1945, the Supreme Allied Commanders in East Asia, invited Colonel Wild to the holiest of all flags over the holiest of all flags, the Japanese forces and thus the wheel came full circle. Colonel Wild was later tragically killed in an air disaster and the flag was laid in Charterhouse Chapel by his brothers as a memorial to him and a memento of the two historic moments to which he and the flag had borne witness.

Yours, etc,
BRIAN REES,
Charterhouse, Godalming, Surrey.

Paying the piper

From Mr Alfred Friendly
Sir, The British press has been wallowing for some weeks in a premise which, so far unchallenged, seems taken as given: newspaper proprietors are by definition wicked heists and must not be allowed to capture the public eye by so much as a raised eyebrow over their own views on public affairs.

Yet if, as all dedicated journalists believe, a newspaper is in a quite different class, in terms of its mission and responsibility to society, from the usual profit-oriented business, then the owner must share that conviction. Otherwise, he would be operating a more prospectively profitable enterprise. He must have some thoughts to

support and policies to fight for or he would not own a device specifically designed for communicating.

In America there are, to be sure, proprietors concerned purely with making money. But indifferent to their journals' position on current affairs, they are themselves ignored by policy-makers at all levels. Other publishers, however, seek to influence policy and to make known their points of view. Depending on individual readers' attitudes, they are admired or deplored, but in either event they are serving the purposes for which they operate: their papers are a means of account. Unsavoury press barons yes, but also Publishers, Ochs-Sulzbergers, Barry Binghams and Olds Chandlers.

Eugene Meyer, owner-publisher of the *Washington Post*, sacked an editor who was an isolationist and made his paper extraordinarily effective in committing the United States to the Allied cause and later, in forwarding the Marshall Plan. His daughter, the present owner, was the rock of



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

March 11: Mr D. C. Thomas was received in audience by the Queen this morning and kissed her hands upon his appointment as Her Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at Havana.

His Excellency Señor Don Fernando Arias-Salgado had an audience of the Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from Spain to the Court of St James's. His Excellency was accompanied by the following members of the Embassy who had the honour of being presented to Her Majesty: Señor Don Pedro María Arce (Minister-Counsellor), Señor Don Víctor Izquierdo (Minister), Señor Don Antonio Varela (Minister), Señor Don Juan María González (Minister), Señor Don Juan Carlos Martínez (Minister), Señor Don Juan del Real (Assistant Secretary), Señor Don Juan de la Cruz Salgado (Assistant Secretary), Señor Don Juan de la Cruz Salgado (Assistant Secretary), Señor Don Juan de la Cruz Salgado (Assistant Secretary).

Mr W. R. McQuillan was received in audience by the Queen and kissed her hands upon his appointment as Her Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at Reykjavik.

Mr Michael Palliser (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) who had the honour of being received by Her Majesty was present, and the Gentlemen of the Household in Waiting were in attendance.

Mr W. R. McQuillan was received in audience by the Queen and kissed her hands upon his appointment as Her Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at Reykjavik.

The Prince of Wales, attended by Mr Francis Cornish, this evening dined with members of the Royal Household at the Royal Household, Great Russell Street, London, W1.

The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips, Chancellor of the University of London, this afternoon presided at the Ceremony of Presentation of Graduates at the Royal Albert Hall and afterwards attended an Ecclesiastical Service in Westminster Abbey.

CLARENCE HOUSE
March 11: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother this afternoon received the Presidents of Queen Mary's London Needlework Guild at St James's Palace on the occasion of the Guild's Annual General Meeting.

Rmth. Lady Ferny was in attendance.

A service of thanksgiving for the life of the late Sir Anthony Caxton will be held in St Albans Abbey at 1.45 pm on Saturday, March 21.

Lord Gladwin represented the Liberal Party at the funeral of Viscount Amory held in St Paul's Cathedral on Tuesday.

Birthdays today
Mr Edward Albee, 53; Sir Eric Eastwood, 71; Professor Sir William Liley, 52; the Hon Roland Moyle, 53; Mr Patrick Widders, 64.

Buckingham Palace luncheon
The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh held a luncheon party at Buckingham Palace yesterday.

The guests were: Mrs Jill Hambling, table tennis champion, Mrs David Tennant, actor, Mrs Peter Dinklage, actress, Mrs David Tennant, actor, Mrs Peter Dinklage, actress, Mrs David Tennant, actor, Mrs Peter Dinklage, actress.

Ball
The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme's twenty-fifth anniversary Commemorative Ball held at Grosvenor House on Monday, March 9, those present included: Sir Donald Collins, chairman, Mr...

University news
Grants
The University of Edinburgh has received a grant of £100,000 from the Scottish Government for the purpose of research into the effects of alcohol on the brain.

Science report
Medicine: Killing leukaemia cells
By the Staff of Nature
Another in the long line of reports of possible anti-cancer drugs appears in Nature this week. Dr Richard Blythman and his colleagues at the Cancer Research Campaign have produced an 'immunotoxin' which has been shown to kill leukaemia cells in mice.

The immunotoxin consists of two linked parts: one is a selective poison, which kills leukaemia cells, and the other is a toxin which kills leukaemia cells. The immunotoxin is a protein molecule which is made up of two chains of amino acids, one of which recognizes and attaches to the host's cells, and the other which kills them.

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Forthcoming marriages

Lord Onley and the Hon Geraldine Harcourt. The engagement is announced between Lord Onley, eldest son of the Earl and Countess of Airlie, of Cortachy Castle, Kilmarnock, Angus, Scotland, and Geraldine, daughter of Viscount and Viscountess Rothes.

Mr J. V. W. Adams and Miss M. del C. Camogli. The engagement is announced between John, elder son of Mr and Mrs Joseph Adams, of Coombe House, Uley, Gloucestershire, and Maria, daughter of the late Señor Carlos Camogli and of Señora Susana Camogli, of Buenos Aires.

Mr M. B. Alabaster, RN, and Miss M. F. Bain. The engagement is announced between Martin, son of the late Inspector Commander A. J. Alabaster, of the Royal Air Force, and Miss M. F. Bain, daughter of Dr and Mrs W. C. Bain, of Ashford, Surrey.

Mr T. J. Cantrill and Miss A. M. Bullimore. The engagement is announced between Timothy, son of Mr and Mrs T. J. Cantrill, of Gloucestershire, and Angela, daughter of Mr and Mrs R. Bullimore, of Loughborough.

Mr H. S. Curry and Miss P. M. Mann. The engagement is announced between Harvey, elder son of Mr and Mrs H. S. Curry, of Stannmore, and Pamela, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs P. M. Mann, of Karpur, Singh Mann, of Karpur, India.

Dr P. A. Hadley and Miss J. D. Williams. The engagement is announced between Paul, son of Dr and Mrs P. A. Hadley, of Wimbledon, and Julia, daughter of Dr C. Williams and the late Mrs Williams, of Shipkale.

Mr W. T. S. Lee and Miss D. W. West. The engagement is announced between William, younger son of the late Mr and Mrs W. T. S. Lee, of the Manor Farm House, Easton, Hampshire, and Deborah, daughter of the late Mr S. A. H. West and of Mrs West, of White Beech Farm, Chiddingfold, Surrey.

Mr N. S. Collins and Miss A. J. Kane. The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr and Mrs Rhodes Collins, of Oakley, Surrey, and Amanda, daughter of Mr and Mrs N. S. Kane, of Leominster, Herefordshire.

Mr S. G. S. Allen and Miss P. D. Robinson. The engagement is announced between Stephen, son of Mr and Mrs Graham Allen, of East Hall Farm, Langham, Holt, Norfolk, and Philippa, daughter of the late Mr David Robinson and of Mrs Michael Robinson, of White Lodge, Goldsmith, Norfolk.

Mr R. C. M. Hall and Miss S. R. Lane. The engagement is announced between Robert, son of Mr and Mrs R. C. M. Hall, of Liphook, Hampshire, and Sheldene, daughter of Mr and Mrs T. M. Lane, of Rake, Hampshire.

Mr J. M. Hardy and Miss R. M. Dumbill. The engagement is announced between John M. Hardy, of Scotland, and Ruth, daughter of the Rev R. A. and Mrs Dumbill, of Kings Cliffe, Peterborough.

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New Books

The holy incompetent

Henry VI
By Bertram Wolfe
(Eyre Methuen, £19.95)

The exacting office of a successful fifteenth century English king, writes Bertram Wolfe in the first life of Henry VI for nearly sixty years, remained real mental ability and broadness in camp and in court, a tough phlegm, a commanding presence, and a rapid incisive which could inspire loyal, efficient action.

Add to this the competence rule as well as reign, to have the entire tone of national life by the nature of his own personality, and you have a description to which Henry VI (1421-1471), had he any choice in the matter, would not and would not have responded. For he was by any standards, one of the worst kings this country has ever had, and it is the thesis of Dr Wolfe's book that Henry's character was not merely a feat of the longest civil war, English history and loss of English France, but their most profound cause.

Henry was not wicked, of course, merely feeble. So feeble, indeed, that the Tudors, rose to power by placing recent history in soft focus and behind an enhancing gauze, takes the director of *Shanghai* to look like a novice, and he must have been a child. This was because they tried to show that descent from Lancastrian Henry not made them more legitimate sovereigns than the Yorks, who had murdered him, and whom they in turn overthrew, but also, despite Henry's initial and military record, in a self Good Thing.

Three Popes were petitioned to canonize him accordingly, one was uncertain: what

miracles had King Henry actually performed? Had he occurred before or after death? And might his saintliness not have been slightly more convincing if he had been just a little more effective ruler in secular life? (After all, Saint Louis IX of France had been a saintly King, not merely a King who might also be a saint.)

Wolfe is still under discussion at the time of his death, and it seems that in the search for a sufficiently uncontroversial gesture of reconciliation to accompany the Pope's visit to Britain next year, they are under discussion once more.

Eton and King's notwithstanding, it looks like a slim case, and certainly all those in favour will derive little comfort from Dr Wolfe. But the tradition of Holy King Henry continues throughout the sixteenth century as Shakespeare's King Henry VI, which presents the King as a daffy simpleton with an aggressive French wife, a tendency to speak low when everyone else is shouting and a desperate, magnificent courage at the moment of death—actors as good as David Warner and Alan Howard have made the Tudor myth of Henry VI more familiar to us than ever today.

It is a powerful myth—holy innocents and merely condones catastrophe but renders it insignificant in the eye of eternity—but it seems more suited to the austere theocracies of Moscow and Spain than the muddled, comparatively open society of even fifteenth century England. Furthermore, Henry's judgment is shown here to have been atrocious: he rewarded with the consequences, turned lawful petitions into bitter grievances and grievances into war, and punished with an unpredictable vindictiveness common enough in the fifteenth, sixteenth, and indeed twelfth centuries, but quite unbecoming in a candidate for the blessed hoop of light.

Henry VI is the latest in the English Monarchs series which began with *William the Conqueror* (1964) and *Richard the Lionheart* (1968) but seems to have settled for a more modest, decent usefulness in recent years. The tone remains scholarly, but has also become academic: these volumes claim rather to be "studies" than biographies proper, and indeed with most medieval monarchs, the lack of personal sources makes conventional biography out of the question: Henry VI, Wolfe writes, was brought to life through his actions, through what was done in his name and the consequences thereof.

Well, yes, but a measure of broad historical imagination and psychological insight is surely not inappropriate either, and it is disappointing to find so little flesh and blood on the people in this book. Not Henry himself, nor on his remarkable Queen, his most talented enemy Richard Duke of York, the Kentish leader, or all the Warwicks. Somerset, Gloucesters and the rest who watched the only crowned King of England and France with expectation and dismay from infancy to deposition and death. There is virtually no narrative drama—most events are given identical weight—and a very great deal of this:

He began his march on London, but waited at Doncaster for the assembled in his name by John Nevill, marquis of Montagu, Warwick's brother. The king still favoured Montagu's loyalty, even against his brother's enterprise. Edward underestimated Montagu's resentment over his loss of Northumberland, and in his place.

I cannot help it. That kind of history makes me think of Wolfe's thesis, however—that Henry was not too holy but merely too incompetent to make a good king—is argued consistently throughout. He was too insensitive ever to hold the initiative for long, or to handle the powerful machinery established on behalf of the Lancastrian Crown by his brilliant father, Henry V, and clever, unscrupulous grandfather, Henry IV. He always acted too late and one of the most interesting aspects of Wolfe's book is that he is shown almost as dangerous in activity as when passively watching history rush by.

As to his saintliness, this is an unachieved secular, not to say sceptical account, which even the foundations of Eton and King's College, Cambridge, Henry's chief memorial and gift to posterity, are regarded as ostentatious grabs for divine attention rather than great innovations in learning and educational reform. It is bracing to cut through the Tudor gauze, sharpen the lighting and be reminded that a long, dark shadow may be thrown by a holy fool, but the feeling persists that a less literal kind of historian would have displayed wider sympathies and written a fuller life of this uniquely influential and aggravating King.

A third, hazy with the smoke from grass, is the accidental society of King and Mary, exasperated summer school teacher, both involved, by a coincidence that seems to bear no structural load, with the same freaked-out charmer.

This is a wonderfully funny book. Everyone has his comic innings and scores. The relentless desolation of Ann Beattie's world is put across with splendid economy. This is quite a large book, but there is a lot for the reader to do. A sense of depth could hardly be more different. The surface of events is of the utmost plausibility. It is communicated with an unrelenting precision that makes Frank Swinnerton seem like Robbe-Grillet. It is odd that one who has written on the situation of the novel should make his first stab at the genre in this crushingly unfashionable, minimally literary form, like the writer of a gourmet column tucking into a hamper from Fortnum's.

Wilfrid Cartwright is very like Wilfrid Meynell: widower of a distinguished poetess, editor of a Catholic paper, friend of Chesterton, dwelling in Sussex, to cap it all a protector of Francis Thompson. He has three daughters: a gruff, devoutly war-widow and two more thinly sketched spinster ones, simply vehicles for opposing ideologies. A nephew, Martin, who takes money secretly from Mussolini for his review *Les Lettres* is solid in conception. The flighty wife who leaves him for someone very like Cecil Day Lewis sprinkles the text with a fine filter of items from the decade: costume designs by Doris Zinkeisen, records of the Hot Club de France, carpets with them. The *Roman Persuasion* is a most agreeable, but only vestigially an exercise of the literary imagination.

A very different family appears in David Plante's brief, rather odd *The Country*. The topic is a family of poor immigrants, French-Canadians in

Providence, Rhode Island, seen at intervals by their wretched son from England who comes to visit his parents as father ages and dies and is buried, with more and more of his six brothers and their families turning up as the event becomes more important.

The Franciscans are Catholics but the main thing this makes them share with Bergonzi's Cartwrights is a lot of relations. There is some Indian blood in their veins which leads to a bit of nature-mysticism. Some of the sons have done well: one owns a garage factory, another is an upright retired major of Marines, yet another a somewhat more worldly naval officer. But there is also Edmund who is 50 and plays with trains. There is a lot of wordless hugging and purely expressive utterance: "that's beautiful" (of some action), "isn't that something about a mother who hood up to adolescence? Stella lives in Skell, apparently north of the Tay Bridge. Her father is a miner, not much more than a growling noise in the background who wants a son. The Scottish dialogue is fairly thick, but one gets into it after a bit, like reading Chaucer.

Life is moderately pinched, but not grim. Stella is expressive and sharp. At an early stage she sees Christ as "a total foreigner in a nightgown from a hot country". Apprised of the possibility of atheism, she thinks, "Ach, it would be too good to be true". In a more devout moment she thinks "God come on, be a pal, dae a miracle".

A mention of Eve Boswell brings back the early postwar years. The expressions "Howard Keels" (as if he had founded a university), "eternal" and "accordant" suggest a lapse in editorial vigilance by the bold non-metropolitan editor of the *Literary Review*.

Anthony Quinton

Picasso's tribute to the Three Graces in Botticelli's Primavera in his Volland Suite, from Great Paintings edited by Edwin Mullins (BBC, £22.95), a book about looking at paintings based on the BBC 2 series.

From the diplomatic bag

Concorde Diplomacy

The Ambassador's Role in the World Today

By Geoffrey Jackson

(Hamish Hamilton, £9.95)

After following traditions throughout his career, an ambassador finds another one awaiting him when he retires. It is that he shall write a book saying how much he deplored all the departures from tradition in modern diplomatic practice; and he shall then go on, according to precedent, to declare that diplomacy of the old school—grave, precise, personal, confidential—will still find a place amid all the summit meetings, leakages and economy drives of today.

Some retired ambassadors, it is true, vary the formula and write learnedly about East-West relations, the Middle East, or another of the world's insoluble problems. Some retire into regrettable silence. But the good ones who follow convention come up with books which are informative, wise, entertaining, and remarkably similar. The anecdotes differ. Topography changes. But seldom the main argument.

Sir Geoffrey Jackson has produced one of the best of these essays. When discussing the most flagrant breach of the

diplomatic code—the kidnapping or outright murder of a representative—he can of course write quite literally from the inside. His own abduction by terrorists in 1971 when he was ambassador in Uruguay, and his eight months of captivity, was one of the most shocking examples. One likes to think that it was while he was a wholly undefeated captive that he thought out some of the deeper and more robust reflections which he now offers on the purpose of diplomacy.

He has several hearty dislikes. Dr Kissinger's highly personalized methods and his ping-pong journeying back and forth in the Middle East are held up as a demonstration of how not to do it. So is the manner of Peter Jay's, never-to-be-forgotten appointment to the Washington embassy: "an innovation so remarkable and so potentially explosive" for the service. So are other ambassadorial appointments from outside although some of these Sir Geoffrey acknowledges, turned out well.

He is irritated by the several official inquiries into the Foreign Service which have been made since the Eden-Bevin reforms beneficially opened the doors more widely. Especially he detests the report produced in 1977 by the

Think-Tank, the Central Policy Review Staff. He sees the report as an exercise "tendentiously before it was born", surrounded by controversy even during its compilation. "Its text alone demonstrates that it was approached in a sociological if not ideological spirit, incomprehensible, obnoxious even, to a Service axiomatically non-partisan." He wonders whether history will file it under "diplomacy" or "satire".

He believes that such inquiries are generally unnecessary and untimely. Bright ideas about re-shaping major departments of state are of little use until Britain's place and role in the world are seen more clearly.

After a slightly over-written first chapter the book settles down to a good-humoured discussion of life in the service. Sir Geoffrey adds to the store of advice at the disposal of young diplomats and assures them (fitting in with the prescribed pattern for such ambassadorial books) that they will never lack work. The fashionable and awful neologisms "ongoing" and "interface" apply exactly to the diplomat's reason for being in the world at all.

Iverach McDonald

Unsuitable job for a woman

The Lady Investigates

By Patricia Craig and Mary Cadogan

(Collins, £9.95)

Patricia Craig and Mary Cadogan, who have already mined to some purpose in the fascinating field of girl fiction in *Young Detective*, now explore a rich vein of fantasy, eccentricity, humour and social comment in this comprehensive survey of women in the detective novel and the spy thriller. They trace the development of the female detective as a literary and sub-literary figure from the first Victorian heroines in the genre, vigorously bicycling to the rescue of the innocent and oppressed, to the capable, liberated and more psychologically credible detectives of modern fiction and in their saga present for our edification and delight a splendidly mixed bunch of amateur and professional sleuths.

One of the book's chief attractions is that it enables us to enjoy a brief but fascinating acquaintance with some of the more whimsical and eccentric ladies without the need to bear with them, and their authors' prose, to the extent of bestowing a maternal kiss on a suspect. Miss Van Snoop from Detroit who demonstrates her New World independence by entering the Cafe Royal unescorted—Americans will do anything!—Yvonne Vallet the devilishly beautiful actress/

dancer spy from Indo-China and dear headstrong little Daphne Wayne.

My sex, as you know, is primarily governed by intuition—instinct—impulse, call it what you will.

Call it what we will, the authors see this reliance on feminine intuition as one of the two basic methods of the fictional female detective. The other, sitting in with the prescribed pattern for such ambassadorial books) that they will never lack work. The fashionable and awful neologisms "ongoing" and "interface" apply exactly to the diplomat's reason for being in the world at all.

They provide, too, a wealth of comment, criticism and information and their response both to the heroines and to their creators is often illuminating. They applaud the subtlety and humour of Clarys Mitchell—surely among the most felicitous of prose writers—and approve of her highly individual and intelligent psychiatrist, Dame Beatrice Lestrangle Bradley. They deplore the decline of Agatha Christie into self-parody, weariness and slapdash technique. They are severe about the covert anti-feminism and the class audacity which they detect in Margery Allingham (she is certainly not the

worst of offenders), and they prefer Harriet Vane to Peter Wimsey whom they see as a fantasy figure made increasingly less credible as his author lingers him with real emotions. But they are among those critics who take seriously *Good Night, Dorothy L. Sayers's* novels and, among all the fun, they deal seriously and perceptively with serious issues.

Meanwhile the female detective continues to flourish. Modern practitioners are less addicted to kitting for relaxation or repose on a manly bosom as their ultimate consolation, and the novelty of their sex has given place to professionalism, scepticism and the development of a traditional detective skills. Increasingly we are presented with real women facing real problems in a real world. And the change is not, of course, confined to heroines. In nothing are we more the creatures of our time than in our fantasies and the prodigies of the past are as outdated and risible as its fashions. Which writer in the genre today, wishing to be taken with no more than that certain degree of seriousness which Henry James opined the art form warrants, would create a Bulldog Drummond, a Sexton Blake or a Peter Wimsey? And the authors may be right in their conclusion that, through all her varied incarnations, the woman detective stands out as the most economical, the most striking and the most agreeable embodiment of two qualities often disallowed for women in the past: the power of action and practical intelligence.

P. D. James



Manuscript of the golden age of the English and French kings, written by the king, probably in 1453. The medieval German script adds: 'Henry by God's grace King of England and in France, and of Ireland.'

Fiction

Falling in Place

by Ann Beattie

(Faber & Faber, £6.95)

The Roman Persuasion

by Bernard Bergonzi

(Vindicta & Nelson, £6.95)

The Country

by David Plante

(Collins, £6.95)

The Magic Glass

by Anne Smith

(Michael Joseph, £6.50)

is society presented in *Falling in Place* is in a luxuriantly bad way from a spiritual point of view. The older bits are enraged, like John Updike, sinking into resentful, doty ladies of an older generation. The young adults are pretty sweet but hopelessly aged-out. The children are adolescents for a high wind in each other.

Mary, fifteen, and John Joel, 14, hate each other. She has a edge on him for obscenity, he picks quite a wallop, editing on Mary's career says "she could be a nurse to do mercy killings". To his other's lesbianism chum Tiffany remarks "how come you're ignorant and you're afraid of boys?" He creeps up on her and says "meow". His own Parkers is even worse, vamping punctured a mother's sphincter. Up a tree with John Joel he hands him a gun, and it is not loaded, and they are shot (in the side, in the back).

The Louise has insisted on living in Connecticut. John lives with mother, nearer the city, and the week, when he is at with his lover "Nina". The unravelling of the narrative, in a ragged state from start, is one main element of the narrative. Another is the dire life of the children and their frustrating friends.

A very different family appears in David Plante's brief, rather odd *The Country*. The topic is a family of poor immigrants, French-Canadians in

Providence, Rhode Island, seen at intervals by their wretched son from England who comes to visit his parents as father ages and dies and is buried, with more and more of his six brothers and their families turning up as the event becomes more important.

The Franciscans are Catholics but the main thing this makes them share with Bergonzi's Cartwrights is a lot of relations. There is some Indian blood in their veins which leads to a bit of nature-mysticism. Some of the sons have done well: one owns a garage factory, another is an upright retired major of Marines, yet another a somewhat more worldly naval officer. But there is also Edmund who is 50 and plays with trains. There is a lot of wordless hugging and purely expressive utterance: "that's beautiful" (of some action), "isn't that something about a mother who hood up to adolescence? Stella lives in Skell, apparently north of the Tay Bridge. Her father is a miner, not much more than a growling noise in the background who wants a son. The Scottish dialogue is fairly thick, but one gets into it after a bit, like reading Chaucer.

Life is moderately pinched, but not grim. Stella is expressive and sharp. At an early stage she sees Christ as "a total foreigner in a nightgown from a hot country". Apprised of the possibility of atheism, she thinks, "Ach, it would be too good to be true". In a more devout moment she thinks "God come on, be a pal, dae a miracle".

A mention of Eve Boswell brings back the early postwar years. The expressions "Howard Keels" (as if he had founded a university), "eternal" and "accordant" suggest a lapse in editorial vigilance by the bold non-metropolitan editor of the *Literary Review*.

Anthony Quinton

Equal talents

Britten and Auden in the Thirties

The Year 1936

By Donald Mitchell

(Faber, £7.50)

O those divergent muses! It is not surprising that working relationships between great composers and great writers have been so rare and uneasy when music is bound either to lull the language or else rest idly in the background. Nor does it wonder that literary critics fight shy of following their subjects into entanglements with musicians, or that musical scholars feel happier with a sonata than with a sonnet.

Here, then, is Donald Mitchell gazing at virgin skies, and doing so from a high citadel of literary culture, since his book began as the 1979 Elliott Memorial Lectures, delivered in succession to a remarkable line of students of the word. His topic quickens anticipation, since Britten and Auden were equal talents and, in the thirties at least, equally convinced of the necessity of collaboration. And though the subtle rather dauntingly suggests the prospect of a row of companion volumes, Dr Mitchell quickly makes it clear that he has chosen to concentrate on 1936 as an *annus mirabilis* for both men and for the world, which at this idealistic time they even thought they might help.

Just as soon, though, he excuses himself from discussing the ostensible subject-matter of his book, blithely remarking that his "account of the Britten-Auden relationship is necessarily seen through Britten's eyes and, more importantly, heard through the filter of his music". So indeed it is. What Dr Mitchell provides is a history and a fulsome appreciation of the music Britten composed to, with and around texts by Auden in 1936 and, oddly, 1937 as well: the symphonic song cycle *The Hunting of the Snark*, scores for various documents, films and for *The Ascent of F6*, the collection *On This Island* and several other songs.

All this will make fascinating reading for those who treasure every note that Britten produced. Others, who may possibly find the book a little worshipping, are not entirely ignorant, since Dr Mitchell charmingly offers amusement in the form of excerpts from the flat, juvenile commonplaces of Britten's diary:

Paul Griffiths

Vox pop

The Structured Crowd

Essays in English Social History

By Harold Perkin

(Harvester, £20)

"We want a Moral Secrecy Commission. To purify the Thames is something, but to purify the Times would be a greater boon to society." The unassuming reports of the *Divorce Courts*, the disgusting details of *horror stories*, the *filthy nautical annals* of the brothel, the prurient letters of adulterers and adulteresses, the modest in which *innocent* may be carried out, the diaries and meditations of married sinners: these are now part of our domestic life.

No—this isn't Mr Phillip Whitehead, MP, regretting the Minister's error in failing to refer the Murdoch purchase to the Monopolies Commission. It is the *Liberal Saturday Review*, attacking the attractive and lucrative indecency of *The Times* in 1864, in the middle of its most famous editorship (so far)—John Thaddeus Delane.

The quotation comes from Professor Harold Perkin's essay, "The origins of the popular press," in this quiverful of pieces on English social history. Most have been published before, in various more-or-less obscure journals. And some, it has to be said, are academic in the Draydusian sense. But when Professor Perkin moves away from the grand generalities of "What is social history?", and starts to have fun with the details, it's like the sun coming out at Blackpool.

And, in fact, there is a very perceptive essay here on why Blackpool is Blackpool, and Southport is Southport, and never the twin shall meet. The English are supposed to take their pleasures easily. Certainly, as Victorian England ingested the social effects of the Industrial Revolution, and sited itself into class, the English began to take their pleasures separately. Within Blackpool, this meant the North Pier for businessmen, the South Pier for respectable family outings, and the Central Pier for kiss-me-quick.

But only Blackpool was big enough to have an internal logic of leisure. Along the Lancashire coast—the California of its day—a Wombles' refuge of trinkets was offered to the would-be holidaymaker. There was everything from the masonry of the Southport (a resort fit for the queen mothers of industry) to the police opal of Grange-over-Sands or the flashy rhinestone of Morecambe.

Perkin pulls together a dozen theses on individual towns, to show that the crucial difference was land-ownership. Where one or two landlords could set a pattern (as at Southport or in north-side Blackpool), gentility reigned. Where land came in penny packets, as in central Blackpool, democracy created its own Coney Island. Blackpool was a career with the usual bargeous ambitions. But there was no

Auden comes back here for a meal at 7.30. We talk amongst many things, a few songs, a little (probably on Animals) that I may write. Very nice and interesting and pleasant evening.

Exactly what happened on these pleasant evenings we never learn. Dr Mitchell shows from the diaries how desperately insecure Britten felt in the presence of Auden and other brilliant talkers, but he never follows this up. Britten was a very young 21-year-old when he met Auden, who was several years older and already comfortably a star. How much influence, one wonders, did the poet have on the composer's artistic views and on his political position?

The latter point is no side issue. Political activism gave Auden and Britten common goals and means of achieving them, and it is noteworthy that so much of Britten's music in his "Auden years", from 1935 to 1942, should have been in part politically motivated, whether or not there were words by Auden to be set. Dr Mitchell rightly points out that the two differed on the virtue of pacifism, to which Britten held resolutely, but he fails to consider whether the composer's left-wing commitment, expressed in schoolboy language into him by the overbearing poet.

Britten and Auden had of course another meeting ground, but there is not going to be much discussion of that in a book which uses the word "homosexual" just once, and only then in a quotation from Cyril Connolly which is abruptly dismissed. It is not surprising that makes one want to know more. Dr Mitchell includes here, published for the first time, a letter from Auden to Britten in which the composer is treated to a severe but surely accurate character analysis. No doubt this contributed to the ending of their relationship, but it also suggests the frictions that earlier fuelled it.

A real examination of Britten and Auden in the Thirties remains, then, to be written, and will have to take into account their personal lives, their political attitudes and all their collaborative ventures. Dr Mitchell's book is a welcome imposed restriction to 1936, but he does not go so far as to consider the biggest Britten-Auden work, *Paul Bunyan*. One must hope that he will take the matter further in his forthcoming biography of the composer.

Paul Griffiths

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ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, March 2 Dealings End, March 13. § Contango Day, March 16. Settlement Day, March 23
 § Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

[illegible]



Clydesdale Bank

BASE RATE

Clydesdale Bank Limited announces that with effect from 12th March, 1981 its Base Rate for lending is being reduced from 14% to 12% per annum

The Times

SPECIAL REPORTS

put situations and subjects of today into

PEPPERBUSH



Lloyds Bank Interest Rates

Lloyds Bank Limited has reduced its Base Rate from 14% to 12% p.a. with effect from Wednesday, 11th March 1981.

The rate of interest on 7-day-notice Deposit Accounts and Savings Bank Accounts is reduced from 11½% to 9% p.a. The rate of interest paid on credit balances on Cashflow Accounts is reduced from 10% to 8% p.a. The change in Base Rate and Deposit Account interest will also be applied from the same date by the United Kingdom branches of

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Top forecasters condemn Budget

By Our Economics Staff

Leading economic forecasters almost unanimously condemned the Budget as likely to cut output, raise unemployment and boost inflation.

Most forecasters now expect that the recession will go on through most of 1981 instead of touching the bottom in the early part of this year as they had previously hoped.

But forecasters sympathetic to the Government's approach said that the Budget would improve the medium-term outlook for inflation and one of them said that the impact on output would be small and inflation prospects would

improve. Mr Frank Blackaby of the National Institute of Economic and Social Research, described the Budget as "extraordinary". Mr Gavin Davies, of stockbrokers Phillips and Drew said the strategy was "foolhardy" and that it was likely to raise unemployment. The Economist Intelligence Unit, which uses the Treasury's own model, described the Budget as "the last ring of monetarism". It questioned the Government's suggestions that the economy would revive in 1982 through increased consumer confidence. It said that only public spending, which is thought likely to exceed the Government's target, will prevent the economy fall-

ing sharply. Output will not bottom until the winter of 1982. The National Institute predicted that output was unlikely to revive in the period ahead. Mr Terry Ward, of the Cambridge Economic Policy Group, predicted that the Budget would force output down to 2 per cent lower than it otherwise would have been.

Stockbroker James Capel forecast that output would fall by 3 per cent and unemployment would be 250,000 higher. Expectation of a turnaround in the first half of 1982 was "wholly unrealistic". Phillips and Drew estimate that output would be 13 per cent lower as a result of the

Budget measures but added that there could be a much sharper fall. The CBI estimated that the Government's economic forecast was over optimistic.

The only consolation for the Chancellor came from the endorsement by the London Business School, which expected that a short-term loss of 1 per cent in output would lead in time to lower inflation. Dr Alan Budd of the business school said he was "cautiously optimistic" about economic prospects. Professor Patrick Minford of Liverpool University said that he expected 5 per cent inflation by 1982 and was more optimistic than the Treasury about output.

FORECASTS FOR THE BRITISH ECONOMY IN 1981

	NIESR (FEB)	LBS (FEB)	HG (Budget)	Year 1981 on Year 1980 (MAR)	CEI (Budget)	OECD (DEC)	ITEM (JAN)	CBI (NOV)	TREASURY (Budget)
	(% change between years unless otherwise stated)	(% change between years unless otherwise stated)	(% change between years unless otherwise stated)	(% change between years unless otherwise stated)	(% change between years unless otherwise stated)	(% change between years unless otherwise stated)	(% change between years unless otherwise stated)	(% change between years unless otherwise stated)	(% change between years unless otherwise stated)
Gross domestic product(%)	-1.3	-1.2	0.8	-1.8	-2.5	-3.5	-2	-3.7	-2.4
Inflation(1)	9.6(2)	10.6	10.1	12.4	12.6	12	13.7	11.3	10(2)
Unemployment (000s)	2,670	2,415	2,600	2,550	2,500	2,680	2,893	2,500	2,500
Consumer spending	1.0	0.2	1.1	-2.8	-0.9	-1.2	-0.5	-1.6	-0.8
Private inv. inc. housebuilding	-8.7	-5.5	-3.0	-6.6(4)	-5.7	-5.1	-8.5	-8.7	-1.5(4)
Public inv. inc. housebuilding	-8.6	-5.9	-6.5	-7.1(5)	-5.0	-11.0	-9.3	-5.4	-7.4
Public auth. consumption	-1.0	-0.4	0.8	-0.8	1.3	-1.3	-0.5	-2.5	-2.5
Stockbuilding (£m 1975)	-2,000	-1,784	-500	1,100	-1,200	-996	500	-1,484	-400
Exports	-1.7	-1.9	-4.0	-4.1	-2.4	3	-5.1	-5.8	-5.5
Imports	-2.2	-3.0	-2.7	-2.8	-2.8	2.3	-1.25	-2.8	-3.9
Balance on current account, 1981, £m	5,100	3,026	4,960	1,030	3,200	3,000	1,800	2,337	-500
PSBR (£m fiscal 1981-82)	12,000	12,138	11,000	8,970	10,100	10,500	n.a.	10,930	10,000
Money supply (% change in £m3 fiscal 1981-82)	10	10.7	9	10.9	13.1	8	n.a.	9.6	9

NIESR: National Institute of Economic and Social Research. LBS: London Business School. HG: Hoare Govett. CEI: Cambridge Economic Institute. EIU: Economist Intelligence Unit. P & D: Phillips & Drew. OECD: Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development. ITEM: Independent Treasury Economic Model Club, published in The Guardian. CBI: Confederation of British Industry.

1: Consumer price index except HG and Treasury where retail price index is used. 2: Fourth quarter 1981 on fourth quarter 1980. 3: Average for adults in United Kingdom during year, except NIESR which is for GB in fourth quarter 1981. LBS which is for GB; CEI which includes school leavers and is estimated from published figures; CBI which is for fourth quarter 1981; Treasury, which is average for fiscal 1981-82. 4: Including investment by public corporations. 5: General government investment. 6: Output measure except HG which is expenditure measure; Treasury and OECD which are compromise measures.

The private forecasts assume policy changes. For details readers should refer to original sources. Categories in different forecasts are not completely comparable, but differences are minor. Differences in result also reflect differences in assumption, model constructions and date at which work performed. The month in which work was published is given in brackets. Forecasts, published by the Treasury and OECD twice-yearly; CEPG once a year; NIESR, EIU, ITEM and CBI four times a year; LBS and CEI three times a year; HG and P & D revise their forecasts every month.

Pactel to lead PAYE transfer to computers

By Kenneth Owen Technology Editor

The Inland Revenue has chosen Pactel, the computer consultancy arm of the PA International group, to lead the project control and coordination group who will monitor the computerization of the national Pay As You Earn (PAYE) income-tax system.

When fully implemented, the scheme will involve 47 large computers in 12 regional centres and about 20,000 computer terminals in almost 600 local PAYE offices. Last November ICL was chosen to supply the regional-centre computers; the suppliers of the terminals and other hardware and services have yet to be identified.

Mr Bruce Graham, a principal consultant with Pactel, will head the project-control group, reporting on day-to-day matters to Mr Steve Matheson, the Inland Revenue's PAYE project manager. Two other Pactel consultants will also join the group, together with Inland Revenue staff.

Members of this team will themselves use a computer-based project-control system to

ensure that the PAYE computerization goes ahead as planned. This system will include a British software package known as Artemis, much used in the oil industry, which was developed by Metier Management Systems.

West Midlands will be the first PAYE region to be computerized. Initially about 14 local offices will be connected to the processing centre while the system is tested and if necessary modified. Then the remainder of this region will be connected, followed by the remaining ones. If all goes well, all 12 regions should be converted by about 1988.

The centres themselves are expected to be linked directly together in a second phase later.

A top-level steering group for the project is being set up by the Inland Revenue. Mr Holman Hunt, Pactel managing director, will serve as a member of this group and will take overall responsibility for Pactel's share of the work.

Telford, Shropshire, the site of the West Midlands regional centre, will also be the national development centre for the PAYE project. At present the project teams are working in London; they are expected to move to Telford in July.

A further outside contract is about to be signed by the Inland Revenue for the PAYE project. This will be for the provision of technical support in writing computer programs and other work.

⑦ Raleigh	⑦ Silencers	⑦ Creda	⑦ Trencher	British Aluminium	⑦ New World
⑦ Reynolds	⑦ Parkray	⑦ Weldless	⑦ Glow-Worm	⑦ Chesterfield	
⑦ Russell Hobbs	⑦ Tubes	Crane Packing	⑦ Drynamels	⑦ Cox	⑦ Desford
⑦ Churchill	⑦ Flexible Tubes	⑦ Accles	⑦ Pollock	⑦ Tower Housewares	⑦ Fords



1980

TI conserves cash as a safeguard in recession and a springboard for the future

Sir Brian Kellett, Chairman of TI, in a press interview yesterday announced Group results for 1980, and said that, in the face of the fiercest recession for 50 years, TI had had to close some factories and had made cost savings in all its businesses. Successful cash control had preserved the scope for positive moves for the future at the right time.

Results At the beginning of 1980 industry was looking for early relief from the pressures of high interest rates and the strength of sterling. In the event, 1980 saw higher average levels of interest rates than ever before while, partly as a result of this, sterling continued to appreciate against the trend of UK inflation relative to the majority of competitor nations. In addition to this, it became apparent once the steel strike in the early part of the year was over that the country was falling rapidly into deeper recession.

All these factors combined to put extreme pressure both on profit margins and on the volume of activity. In the face of these pressures, to have tried to maintain capacity and manning levels in the hope of an eventual return to more normal conditions would have led to heavy losses and to insupportable cash drains. Regrettably, therefore, costs and capacity had to be cut. Enforced redundancies were unavoidable and distressingly the numbers were substantial. Redundancy and closure costs provided in the year, involving some 6000 people in 1980 and a further 3000 in the early part of 1981, already announced, totalled £25.4m and in view of the underlying reasons for their occurrence they have been treated as extraordinary items.

Consolidated profit and loss account year ended 31st December 1980.	1980 £m	1979 £m
External sales	1,158.2	1,213.8
Trading profit	53.0	73.5
Proportion of (losses)/profits of associated companies	(1.5)	1.8
	51.5	75.3
Bank and loan interest payable	(24.8)	(23.1)
Profit before taxation	26.7	52.2
Taxation	(10.3)	(12.3)
	16.4	39.9
Minority interests	(5.4)	(8.3)
Earnings	11.0	31.6
Extraordinary items	(29.7)	1.5
	(18.7)	33.1
Dividends	(8.9)	(15.1)
Balance for the year	(27.6)	18.0
Earnings per £1 ordinary stock	18.5p	53.3p

Trading profit fell from £73.5m to £53.0m. Interest charges rose from £23.1m to £24.8m. Average borrowings were lower than in the previous year but the Group's variable rate borrowings were influenced by the unprecedentedly high average level of interest rates during the year. Profit before tax was £26.7m compared with £52.2m in 1979. After deducting minority interests, earnings for the year before extraordinary items were £11.0m compared with £31.6m.

Cash Control

During the year, great emphasis was placed on the conservation of cash through the rigorous control of working capital levels and withdrawal from inadequately profitable marginal areas of business. Despite the heavily depressed level of profits there was a net cash inflow in the year of £23.1m. This was made up of an outflow of £10.3m in British Aluminium, largely as a result of the high level of capital expenditure on the Lochaber smelter modernisation, and an inflow of £13.4m in the remainder of the Group.

Capital Expenditure

Capital expenditure rose from £48m to £54.4m, including the Lochaber expenditure, which reflected the Group's policy of continuing to invest in schemes to enhance competitiveness in those areas of the Group where it is strategically desirable to concentrate resources.

Dividend

In the light of the impact on the Group results of economic conditions in 1980 the Board has had to consider the level it recommends for the final dividend

for the year taking account of the interim dividend already paid. In deciding to pay an interim dividend of 12.5p per £1 ordinary stock the Board took account of profits earned in the first half-year and expectations at that time for the second half. In the event the trading position and prospect deteriorated further in the second half and only small profits were earned in that period.

It is difficult to judge the duration of present conditions. There has been some modest relief recently of the pressure from high interest rates and an overvalued pound. On the other hand, assuming TI's own reduction in capacity and numbers employed may be typical of the manufacturing sector, it must be some time yet before the downward economic momentum can be halted and reversed. There is no evidence yet of substantial recovery in the volume of business, which would have to show through soon if it were to have much impact on 1981.

In these circumstances the Board have thought it right to reduce the total annual dividend to a new lower base, with the expectation of moving forward again as profits recover.

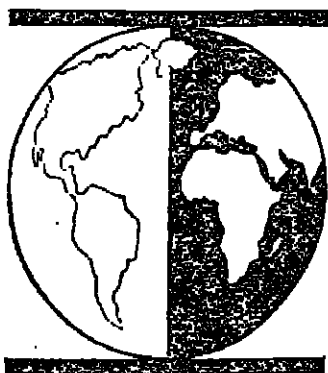
Accordingly the Board recommends a final dividend of 2.5p per £1 ordinary stock payable on 12 May 1981 to ordinary stockholders registered on the books of the Company at the close of business on 9 April 1981.

This dividend together with the interim dividend of 12.5p per £1 ordinary stock paid on 10 October 1980 makes a total distribution for the year of 15.0p compared with 25.5p per £1 ordinary stock for the year ended 31st December 1979.

Consolidated balance sheet 31st December 1980	1980 £m	1979 £m
Net assets employed		
Fixed assets	247.3	227.4
Deferred revenue expenditure, net	4.1	2.9
Investments	17.5	34.1
Current assets	537.2	589.9
	806.3	854.3
Deduct: current liabilities	278.6	299.9
	527.4	554.4
Financed by		
Issued capital	59.3	59.3
Reserves	278.7	308.4
TI stockholders' funds	338.0	367.7
Interests of minority shareholders	61.0	59.6
Total shareholders' funds	399.0	427.3
Loans	96.5	100.5
Deferred liabilities and credits	31.9	26.6
	527.4	554.4

The Annual Report will be posted to Shareholders on April 9, 1981. Further copies will be available from The Secretary, Tube Investments Limited, TI House, Five Ways, Birmingham B16 5SQ.





£180m Japan deal for TV plant in East Berlin

A \$400m (£180m) contract for a television tube plant to be set up in East Berlin by two Japanese companies, Toshiba (Electronics) and Neg (Glass), is expected to be signed at the Leipzig Fair next week.

The deal, announced two weeks ago in Tokyo, is part of an East German move to boost trade during 1981-85 with Japan, France, Italy and Austria. The East Germans want to reduce West Germany's 60 per cent share of their trade with the West.

A joint East German-Japanese commission meeting on Friday and Saturday will consider East Germany's heavy deficit with Japan, which last year totalled \$39m (£44.5m) in overall trade worth \$179m (£30.6m).

Paris-Tokyo pact

Japanese and French industrial plant exporters have signed a cooperation agreement for exports to third countries and may form joint consortiums for international tenders to promote export to third countries.

£20m Irish plant

The Medford Corporation of Oregon is to build a £20m fire-board manufacturing plant at Clonmel in the Irish Republic, which is expected to create 200 jobs in the next four years.

EEC meat check

An EEC team is visiting Australia next weekend to inspect meat handling plants after earlier unofficial reports that Australian premises failed to satisfy EEC standards.

S Africa wage rise

South Africa's 500,000 iron, steel, engineering and metallurgical workers will receive a 15 to 22 per cent pay rise from May to July, mainly benefiting lower paid black workers.

Site preparations for ethane cracker get under way in Fife

Work starts on £1,000m Esso plant

It is ironic that in the week when Esso announced the start of work on one of Britain's largest-ever chemical projects, the remainder of the industry should produce figures indicating a substantial reduction in its investment over the next few years.

It serves to illustrate once again, however, the uncertainty within an industry accustomed to high growth but now trying to adjust mentally and physically to a bleak future.

Later this month, an earth moving company begins site preparations for Esso's £300m ethane cracker at Mossburn, Fife. Eventual on-site investment, including downstream plant making use of the ethylene produced, could be more than £1,000m.

Meanwhile, in boardrooms up and down the country, hard-pressed chemical companies will be reviewing tentative capital spending plans in the light of continuing depressed orders and poor profitability, and this week's Budget package.

According to estimates published by the Chemical Industries Association, investment in mainstream plant and equipment by members will fall by about one-fifth in real terms this year. In cash terms, they will spend an estimated £1,285m. Further declines are expected in subsequent years.

This is bad news for the many industries, especially the process plant makers, who look to the chemical companies for much-needed orders. Indeed, last year's record £1,340m investment by the chemicals sector represented 19 per cent of all manufacturing capital spending.

Mr Martin Trowbridge, director general of the Chemical Industries Association, said that investment intentions remain "surprisingly optimistic" in view of the serious difficulties being experienced by chemicals manufacturers.

Output in the United Kingdom fell by 9 per cent last year, and is expected to decline by a further 3.5 per cent in 1981. Profitability on bulk commodity petrochemicals has vanished, and many companies are now reporting unprecedented losses. Imperial Chemical Industries, Britain's largest manufacturing company, ended as a loss in the second half of last year and was recently forced to cut its dividend for the first time since 1933.

The chemicals industry has the capacity to supply far more products than there is demand for. Over-capacity in the United Kingdom is likely to grow from 21 to 27 per cent over the next two years.

Last year, companies revised investment intentions downwards sharply in line with worsening business forecasts. Mr Trowbridge believes the same may happen this year. Many were working on the assumption that there would be a relaxing of Government policy regarding feedstock and energy costs, sterling parity and interest rates. Immediate reaction yesterday was that despite a 2 per cent cut in minimum lending rate the Budget had fallen far short of the industry's aspirations.

Mr Trowbridge has already pointed the way ahead with substantial, but largely unremarked cuts in capital spending. Further large reductions in authorizations are planned,

according to Sir Maurice Hodgson, ICI's chairman.

In the past, ICI spent about £2m a day on new plant and equipment. Expenditure in 1980 was £724m. Authorizations though declined from £552m in 1979 to £324m. Of this only £176m was earmarked for the United Kingdom.

ICI's spending was expected to decline after 1979. It has been outstanding for competitors for some years and a number of large projects have recently been completed. But the decline in authorizations reflects lower demand and "inadequate levels of cash flow and profitability".

What is certain is that an increasing proportion of investment will be devoted to replacement of old plant, and the introduction of energy-saving equipment, and other cost improvements, rather than new products or additional capacity. The latter accounts for only 45 per cent of likely spending in 1981, against about 55 per cent in the past.

A recent survey by the association suggests that petrochemical companies are hoping to achieve energy savings of 15 per cent over the next 10 years. Mr Robert Maples, president of Esso International, recently described the cost benefits of process technology improvements as the silver lining among the industry's gathering clouds.

Investment in this area is already being helped in a small way by the Government, which has committed £50m over the next two years for grants to assist the conversion of oil boilers to coal.

John Huxley

Clearing banks campaign against windfall tax

Continued from page 19

suggestion, but said the Government was not interested.

Meanwhile in early February Mrs Thatcher was a luncheon guest of the Committee of London Clearing Bankers.

During the lunch she raised the question of the banks' responsibility for money expansion and accused them of recklessly boosting personal credit through credit cards. The banks wrote her denying responsibility for over-extending personal credit and also took the opportunity to write a memorandum arguing against a tax on windfall profits. It fell on deaf ears.

At the same time, the pre-Budget negotiations with the clearing banks and the Industrial and Commercial Finance Corporation on the Chancellor's "Enterprise Package" were overshadowed by one central oddity. Neither side wanted the main proposal—the loan guarantee scheme.

Whitehall has always disliked the scheme. The new Conservative government found it ideologically unacceptable. The banks and ICFC regarded it as unnecessary.

The details of the final package to be worked out in the coming months will reflect this pressure. Already it is

clear that the 3-per cent premium being charged on the loans as an insurance against losses, one per cent over the expected rate, is a symptom of the fact that the scheme will generate losses.

These fears are also behind a clause in the fine print now being worked out that only organizations with a "good" rating for small businesses should be involved. Rumours that the big clearers were behind this clause in a bid to limit competition have been categorically denied and it appears that the clause was written by civil servants.

Its immediate effect is that the Trustee Savings Bank will be excluded. Mr Leonard Bakewell, general manager (services) of the TSB, described himself yesterday as "bemused" at their exclusion and expressed regret. He also said it would limit competition on the rates charged on the loans.

Also hovering on the edge has been the Co-operative Bank, which is more experienced in small business lending. The signs are that an applications from it now would be successful.

ICFC, originally the most vociferous opponents of the

scheme, is now going for a slightly different package from the banks. The banks accepted that a viable business could be denied a loan because sufficient personal guarantees were not available from the businessman. These would be ideal for a guaranteed loan. But ICFC would not go that far. Where such guarantees are not available, the bank would normally go for secured loans. So it will now argue with the DoI that it should have the unique ability to include equity and guaranteed loans in one package.

But the key point for everybody which has to be settled is the concept of "additionality". This involves proving that the lenders really are creating new capital under the scheme. One banker commented that the DoI wanted them to "sign in blood" that they were a loan which they would not otherwise have made.

They have also had to "sign in blood" to agree that they will compete on interest rates. At the first meeting on the scheme the clearers and the DoI met. It was with the banks saying the rate should be fixed and the civil servants demanding competition. But the DoI has won. The loans now look likely to settle

down at rates of around 5 per cent over base rate, out of which will come the 3 per cent "insurance premium". This leaves only a 2 per cent margin for the banks, the kind of deal only usually offered to the higher quality borrowers.

That, combined with the high cost of administering small term loans, makes it a scarcely profitable venture for the banks, and that is why the politicians will now be breathing down their necks to make sure they promote it properly.

The catch for the banks is they will have to ration loan guarantees or else every businessman will now refuse to offer personal guarantees, but they will not like to be seen to be rationing too clearly or else they will be accused of undermining the experimental phase.

Meanwhile, the £10,000 tax allowance for investments in start-up businesses is causing further jitters among the lenders. One commented that it would have to be "bureaucratically certified out of existence" if it was to be proof against fraud. Abuse is, ironically, potentially most open to people vetting loans who could pick out suitable propositions for their own tax avoidance purposes.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Positive side of monetarism

From Professor Richard C. Stapleton

Sir, "Monetarism" seems now to be used increasingly as a term of abuse. Only the inner circle (or cabal) of cabinet ministers and their well paid advisers are convinced of what to the majority (CBI, TUC, Tory backbenchers) appears to be a totally negative policy creed.

Monetarism is not just a prescription for controlling inflation through the money supply. If it were, this Government would probably fail to meet the criterion. It represents a belief that governments cannot, in the long run, positively affect the real economy by macroeconomic policy, whereas they can and do adversely affect the level of inflation. The business production and employment should be left to companies and workers and the markets in which they operate.

The positive side of monetarism, which has largely been ignored by this Government, is summed up in the phrase "Make the markets work". It emphasises micro rather than macroeconomic government policy. The only way long-term unemployment can be cured is by freeing the labour market of the increasing restrictions and monopoly control that have been the feature of the postwar period. The only way new firms can be encouraged to produce and employ is to balance the monopolistic advantages of large firms with positive substantial help for small firms.

Most of the positive policies of monetarism are more identified in the public mind with the Social Democrats than the Tories because they are interventionist. My list would include massive help for small firms in new technology industries, free merchant banking advice to all companies with

assets less than £100,000, subsidies to house moving rather than the existing tax penal relief for private equity investment, mobility allowance for the unemployed, government payment of all redundancy allowances and legislation against the monopoly practices of unions.

There is no conflict there between monetarism and interventionism. The problem that the interventionist postwar British government has usually been of the "right" kind. It has propped declining large firms and ported large unions. Who needed a "right" kind of interventionism?

Yours faithfully,
R. C. STAPLETON,
Professor of Business Finance,
Manchester Business School,
University of Manchester,
Booth Street West,
Manchester M15 6PB.

Increase in gas charges

From Mr G. A. Taylor

Sir, The Secretary of the British Gas Corporation (March 6) thinks we were astonished to read that the standing charge on our gas bill has risen "by 170 per cent since last April".

I was surprised only at the delay before an official of the Gas Corporation told us that the standing charge is intended to cover the cost of supply, meter reading, accountancy and other administrative expenses.

First may I correct the figures? Since April, 1980, the quarterly standing charge has increased by 177.78 per cent. The charge for the first 52 therms, as he correctly says, has not increased, but the charge for the excess over 52 therms has increased by 28.48 per cent. With my gas bill I received a note advising me to save fuel and, of course, it is to my financial advantage so to do, but how effective is any attempt to economise, when I am presented with an insupportable increase of 177.78 per cent in the quarterly standing charge?

In the same letter I am invited to ease the burden of payment by a monthly standing order through my bank. I realise that this method, if widely used, would help the gas board's cash flow problems and possibly reduce clerical costs, but when I asked what discount they were offering for payment in advance my inquiry brought no reply. My money therefore will stay on deposit until the quarterly gas bill is prepared, posted and awaits its turn for attention.

Yours faithfully,
G. A. TAYLOR,
221 Argyle Road,
Faringham, W13 0AY.

HMSO prices

From Mr Robert Saunders

Sir, Mr McCall (Letters, 8) thinks it outrageous for Stationery Office to charge £2.10 for Cmnd 8179.

I have before me Cmnd 8179, The Annual Review of Agriculture, 1974. It is priced at £2.10. Table 26 states the price of milk to be 28.48 p per gallon. I also have Cmnd 8137, Annual Review of Agriculture, 1981. It is priced at £4.30. Table 26 states the price of milk to be 12.57 p per litre—or 57 p per gallon.

The price of milk paid to producers has therefore crept by 2.32 times; the price of the White Paper by 11 times.

Who is milking whom?
ROBERT SAUNDERS,
Chairman,
E. F. Saunders & Sons Ltd,
From Mayne Farm,
Dorchester.

Councils that get cars 'on the cheap'

From Mr F. H. G. Canton

Sir, Mr Rumsey's indignant letter in *The Times* today (March 9) on "The unfair company car perk" reads persuasively, not least, no doubt, to himself.

Allow me to write how local government officers have long smarted under what they see as councils getting the use of cars on the "cheap". The officer must provide the car himself and, in my own case, which is typical, the car allowance provided by the council, and based

on a small annual mileage of less than 3,000 miles, barely, if at all, covers the repayment on an assisted car purchase scheme over five years. It is my car, but is never available to my wife during the working week.

According to independent assessment, the cost of running a small family car, including depreciation, is approaching £20 per week, and I must bear this cost entirely out of my own pocket. An added irritant is that HM income tax assessors reduce

my personal tax allowance £100, being, in their estimate, the profit element in my not inadequate car allowance. Finally, the car allowance which is settled nationally adjusted long after any increases in running costs, eg insurance, petrol, repairs, etc.

Mr Rumsey would do well to reassess his "blessing".
Yours faithfully,
F. H. G. CANTON,
2 Beaulieu Gardens,
London, N21 2HR.
March 9.

Ultramar: the future looks bright

Preliminary Announcement of 1980 Group Results

Summary of financial results

	1980 £ million	1979 £ million	Increase £ million
Sales	939.5	1,001.7	(62.2)
Operating profit before taxation	126.3	75.4	50.9
Net profit	74.1	45.8	27.3
Cash flow from operations	100.8	55.3	44.5
Capital expenditures	54.0	40.0	14.0

The Year 1980

Cash flow from operations, operating profit before taxation and net profit in 1980 were all at record levels. Most of the Ultramar Group's earnings are in U.S. and Canadian dollars and the results were adversely affected on conversion into sterling.

All of the major divisions of the Group were profitable. The Indonesian, Eastern Canadian and Caribbean operations had a particularly good year. These fine results were achieved despite a reduction in the Group's sales of oil from 279,900 barrels per day in 1979 to 213,200 barrels per day in 1980. Refinery runs were also lower. Capital expenditures for 1980 were £54 million of which the largest portion was spent on development in Indonesia. The Group has begun a major three-year capital expenditure programme in exploration, shipping and upgrading of facilities to provide a wider base for profits in the mid-nineteen eighties.

Canadian Operations

We have completed much of the engineering for adding a catalytic cracking unit and ancillary equipment to the Quebec Refinery. Long lead time items are on order and some on-site work has been done. Revised estimates by the contractor have more than doubled the originally estimated cost and we are now faced with expenditures of approximately Can. \$300 million. While the project is still economically viable even at this figure, we have to face the fact that such a large investment would create a significant imbalance in the geographic spread of the Group's assets at a time when Government policy is to Canadianise the oil industry. We have, therefore, decided to try to find a Canadian partner or alternatively to reduce the investment by scaling down the size or eliminating some units. Engineering work is continuing but construction work on the site has been temporarily suspended. Due to the uncertainty surrounding this project, we

have made a provision of £3 million out of 1980 profits in respect of the estimated net costs and commitments incurred to date.

North Sea

We applied for and were granted interests in two blocks, each with a £25 million application fee, in the seventh round of licensing in the North Sea. In block 9/11 we have a 31.25 per cent interest with Union Oil, also with 31.25 per cent, being the operator. Getty has a 31.25 per cent interest and a Norwegian company has 6.25 per cent. In block 24/5b, we are the operator with a 35 per cent interest. Pan Canadian Petroleum and Houston Oil and Minerals each have a 15 per cent interest and British Electric Traction has 15 per cent. We have also applied for several blocks which carry no premium and an announcement on the award of these blocks is expected shortly.

Outlook for 1981

In the U.K. and Canada we face additional taxation and in the U.S. there have been revised regulations which are not favourable to small refineries. Nevertheless, we expect 1981 to be another good year for Ultramar, although it may be difficult to surpass the profits of 1980. The financial condition of the Group has improved greatly in the past two years and we are moving boldly to expand the scope of our activities. The future for Ultramar looks bright.

Dividends

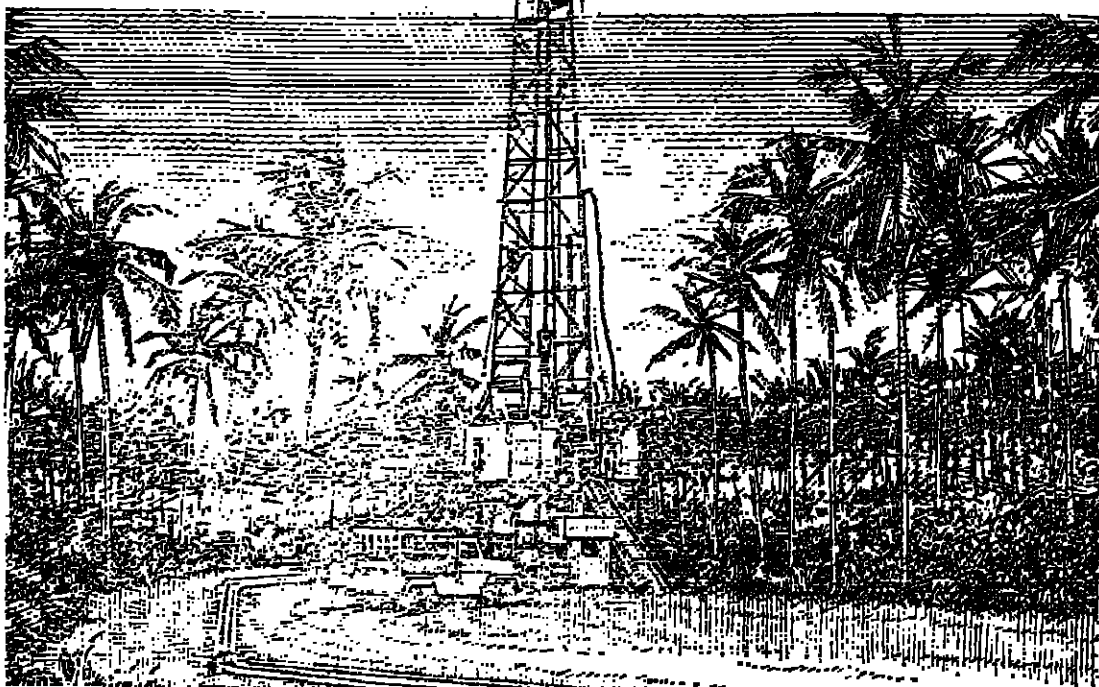
An interim dividend of 4p per Ordinary Share was paid on 7th November 1980. We will recommend at the Annual General Meeting on 29th May 1981 that a final dividend of 7p per share be paid out of 1980 profits. This dividend will be paid on 29th May 1981 to shareholders registered at the close of business on 24th April 1981.

Annual Meeting

The Report and Accounts for 1980 will be issued on 24th April 1981. The Annual General Meeting will be held at the Great Eastern Hotel, Bishopsgate, London EC2, on Friday, 29th May 1981 at 11 a.m.

ARNOLD LORBER,
Chairman.

11th March 1981.



Consolidated profit and loss account

	1980 £ million	1979 £ million
Sales	939.5	1,001.7
Profit on trading	141.7	106.4
Amortisation, depreciation, depletion and amounts written off	15.4	15.5
Elimination of remaining unamortised costs in Iran	—	15.5
	15.4	31.0
Operating profit before taxation	126.3	75.4
Taxation on operating profit		
Current	37.5	15.6
Deferred	15.3	14.5
	52.8	30.1
Operating profit after taxation	73.5	45.3
Foreign exchange fluctuations (Note 2)	0.6	1.5
Net profit	74.1	46.8
Convertible Redeemable Preferred Shares dividends including Advance Corporation Tax written off (Note 4)	0.1	1.3
Earnings attributable to Ordinary Shareholders	74.0	45.5
Ordinary Shares dividends:		
Interim 4p (1979, 24p)	4.3	2.3
Final 7p (1979, 5p)	7.4	4.6
Advance Corporation Tax written off	5.1	3.0
	16.8	9.9
Earnings retained for the year	£57.2	£35.6
Cash flow from operations	£100.8	£36.3
Earnings per Share (Note 4)	69.3p	49.2p

- Notes
- Group operating profits are largely in U.S. and Canadian dollars.
 - The gain on foreign exchange fluctuations of £0.5 million during 1980 relates almost entirely to long term loans of inviolable companies repayable over the years to 1983.
 - Translation and conversion exchange rates used by the Group are:
- | | 31st December 1980 | 31st December 1979 |
|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| £1 equals U.S. \$ | 2.29 | 2.22 |
| £1 equals Can. \$ | 2.26 | 2.59 |
| U.S. \$1 equals Can. \$ | 1.20 | 1.17 |
| U.S. \$1 equals Sw. Fr. | 1.78 | 1.59 |
- The 7 per cent Convertible Redeemable Preferred Shares have been converted into Ordinary Shares. No further Preferred Share dividends have therefore accrued since the final payment on 31st January 1980. The Earnings per Share calculation assumes conversion of all outstanding Preferred Shares at 1st January 1980.
 - The results shown above are based on the Historical Cost convention. The Current Cost net profit, which does not differ materially from the Historical Cost net profit, will be shown in detail in the 1980 Annual Report, together with explanatory Notes.

Operating results

	1980	1979
Sales of oil (barrels per day)	213,200	279,900
Oil-refined (barrels per day)	82,700	97,700
Oil produced (barrels per day)	8,900	9,800
Gas produced (thousands of cubic feet per day)	162,300	174,800
Net acreage interest	3,253,000	2,682,000
Gross wells drilled	71	51
Oil and gas wells completed (in which the Group has varying interests)	50	41

To: The Secretaries, Ultramar Company Limited, Morgan House, 1 Angel Court, London EC2R 7AU.

Please send me a copy of the full Preliminary Announcement of 1980 Group Results.

Name

T153

Address

Ultramar



BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

TI adds to the Budget hangover

If the Government took considerable political risk yesterday, it must nevertheless have been delighted that the Chancellor had struck the right note with the gilt-edged market. The remaining £750m or so of the "tap" that had been sitting uncomfortably in the Government Broker's hands over recent weeks was heavily oversubscribed before trading started and that must push the gross funding secured for the March banking month to well over £1,500m. How strongly the market will be tempted by this morning's new 1990 issue in £15 paid form remains to be seen. But if it sells quickly then the authorities will have laid a solid base of advanced funding over the next two months. They will, of course, be relying on an immediate sell-out for the £1,000m indexed issue that goes on sale at the end of March—with the market already talking in terms of a significant premium.

But what was good news for gilt went wrong like a lead balloon in the equity market with dividend cuts by Tube Investments and Turner & Newall adding to the gloom. At least TI can take comfort from the fact that it has emerged from the traumas of 1980 with a strong balance sheet. Most of the closure and redundancy costs which added the bulk of last year's £32m extraordinary items, were covered by selling peripheral businesses and cash has been squeezed out of working capital.

So TI has been able to fund a higher level of capital spending—up by £6.4m to £54.4m, reflecting the cost of the Lochaber smelter modernization at British Aluminium—and still end up with a small inflow of cash and a virtually unchanged debt-equity ratio of 31 per cent.

But TI has still chopped back the year's dividend by two-fifths and the reason is clear enough. Demand continued to fall



ir Brian Kellett, chairman of Tube Investments.

During the second half of 1980, which contributed only £2.5m to the year's pretax profit of £26.7m—down from £52.2m. There is no sign of recovery and the one part of the business going reasonably well at the moment, domestic appliances, could be hit by the Budget squeeze on consumers.

TI will not make much profit in the first half of 1981. After that, much depends on some upturn in demand although last year's cost-savings should be working through. However it is clear that TI will emerge in better shape than most engineering companies from the recession, and it has also made it fairly clear that the dividend is now safe. So the shares, yielding 12 per cent after yesterday's 34p fall to 178p, look one of the better long-term recovery prospects.

Turner & Newall

Losing money in Britain

Turner & Newall's trading performance was sluggish at the interim stage in September and it did not improve later in the year as the recession wiped out the group's British earnings base.

It therefore joins the list of major industrial companies to have cut their dividends with a payment of 8.57p a share gross for 1980 against 16.4p. That possibility had of course been signalled by an interim dividend cut, and with profits for the year down from £27.5m to only £6.4m producing an attributable loss of nearly £9m, even the reduced dividend looks like an act of faith in the future underpinned by a balance sheet which remains sound.

Gearing is down from 50 per cent to 35 per cent, a reflection of the infusion of Zimbabwe assets earlier in the year and asset sales which have yielded £44m gross. The settlement in Zimbabwe has of course proved to be a godsend to T & N which now says that a "substantial" part of profits is coming from Africa. That only serves to

highlight the drama taking place in the groups British business which traded at a loss of £6.6m in the second half of 1980.

T & N is not alone here, of course, but it is reacting in a way that suggests it will be a rather different company after the recession. It has shed 4,000 employees since the beginning of 1980 and in the process gone out of the insulation business in which it had made heavy investment; it will shortly announce a radical restructuring at Storey Bros, a plastics sheet and film business which it bought in 1977 involving many more jobs, and the emphasis of the business, largely due to regaining its operations in Zimbabwe, has been shifted back to asbestos and—temporarily perhaps—to an undue dependence on African earnings.

The share price at 71p, now yielding just over 12 per cent, reflects natural concern by the market about the immediate outlook—not improved by the Budget.

Woolworth After the trauma

There is a chance, however faint, that Woolworth is through the worst. Retailers had a better January than at first feared—sales by value were 12 per cent up on a year earlier—and yesterday Woolworth reported that in the last quarter of the year sales rose by 13.7 per cent.

The group had a fright in the six months to last July when sales, ex-VAT, almost ground to a halt, and it suffered trading losses. But management quickly began cutting costs, unloading stocks and slashing prices.

In the key Christmas quarter the group had pretax profits of £32.1m, against £34.08m the year before. For the year as a whole (to January 31), profits fell from £57.25m to £39.2m. The maintained final dividend apparently owes nothing to pressure from the United States parent with 52 per cent of the shares, but it must be relieved with United Kingdom dividend policy now that the pound is weakening against the dollar.

Woolworth is pleased with "Operation crackdown", mounted less than three weeks ago.

The idea is to create a new image among shoppers, of retailing quality merchandise at keen prices. But image building takes time and Woolworth must expect retaliation if it really does eat into competitors' sales in what the Budget has ensured will be a tough year. But a yield of more than 11 per cent and a wealth of freehold property will probably persuade people to stay with the shares at 56p.

● **Relieving the gloom elsewhere, Ultramar produced good enough figures to lift the shares 12p although they closed 9p down at 496p in a generally hesitant oil sector trying to assess the impact of the new North Sea tax regime.**

The seasonally strong final quarter again contained signs that the earnings pace was slowing at least in sterling terms with its £20.5m contribution only slightly ahead of the previous quarter to leave full year net profits up from £46.8m to £74.1m.

The overall picture shows no surprises with the Indonesian LNG operation continuing to be the mainstay as volume built up from 57 to 71 cargoes. Volumes on the oil side were well down as the group's Caribbean crude was substituted by Western Canadian supplies while the Eastern Canadian refinery has cut out its less profitable runs.

But it is not all plain sailing and Ultramar has become noticeably more apprehensive of Canada's plans for local participation. Mindful of the loss of its Venezuelan interests a few years ago, it is seeking to limit its exposure in Canada and the casualty looks like being its new catcracker, where the cost has doubled to Can \$300m, which was intended to cement its market position in Canada.

After two years of strong growth, then, Ultramar is now set for a period of consolidation before the doubling of the Badak field, the Canadian refinery and the Maureen field produce another big jump in profits after 1983 and it is warning that 1981 could be a bit below 1980, depending on what happens to crude prices. Meanwhile its efforts to reinvest its massive cash flow of £100m last year is not going smoothly with United Kingdom acquisitions to relieve the ACT headache difficult to come by. For the time being the frothiness has been blown away from the shares now that the bid rumours have died down but the 7 1/2 p/c ratio is undemanding.

Washington

"To Stockmanize" is a new verb in the United States which simply means to take a large red pencil to every new spending plan devised by civil servants and Democratic Party politicians.

Mr David Stockman, 34, the Reagan Administration's Director of the Office of Management and Budget, this week achieved what many experienced Washington politicians thought impossible: he has managed to rewrite the federal Budget and fashion it to the new President's desires in less than six weeks.

President Carter submitted his Budget to the Congress on January 15 for the 1982 fiscal year, confident that President Reagan would find insufficient time to make more than modest changes in the programme.

But on Tuesday the President sent the Congress "a complete revision" of the Budget, involving no less than 283 specific changes and scores of cuts in government credit schemes. Dozens of spending projects have been consolidated and altered and many have been bluntly eliminated. There is no doubt in Washington that Mr

Stockman is to blame for all this.

He has worked long hours to put the budget plan together, guided constantly by the conviction that Government is the prime cause of inflation, the main impediment to a healthy free enterprise system in the United States and a born of plenty to America's undeserving.

Mr Stockman appears to enjoy nothing better than playing with the budget numbers and he is said to have all \$700,000 worth of them stored in his computer-like memory. He is said to be a very busy man, playing greater knowledge of their interests than they themselves can command. He bewilders civil servants by his ability to often recall memoranda that they wrote years ago.

Mr Stockman studied divinity at Harvard University, and he has left it to others in the Reagan Administration to deploy the supply side theoretical economic arguments upon which Tuesday's budget was based. Over the last few weeks Mr Stockman's sole interest has been finding more than \$50,000m of spending cuts out-

Frank Vogl

side of defence in the federal government's programme.

But he is not merely a numbers genius, or just the Administration's wizard bookkeeper. He is first and foremost a politician. He campaigned at the age of 17 in his home state of Michigan for Mr Barry Goldwater in the 1964 presidential race, then rushed to the left to win fame at Michigan University as an anti-Vietnam war protester.

By the early 1970s, however, Mr Stockman was moving rapidly to the right as he gained experience of politics as an assistant in the Congress to Mr John Anderson, the moderate Republican. In 1976 he ran successfully for the Congress from Michigan and he won a second term in 1978. He formed an alliance with Mr Jask Kemp, the New York Congressman, and together they campaigned hard for the very economic policies that the new President is now advocating.

He has said that he believes "that self-interest is an inher-

ent part of the human condition and what we need to do is to harness it, not abolish it." For him this means dismantling as much of the Government as swiftly as possible and opposing government subsidies of all kinds at all times. He even opposed aid to the Chrysler Corporation, his home state's ailing giant, when he was in Congress.

Mr Stockman has moved so fast on the budget that he has bowled over the American press, the Department of the Treasury and the entire Cabinet. In time he may find that less than 100 members of Congress in the Cabinet, such as Mr Donald Regan, the Treasury Secretary, may decide that they have had enough of being pushed into the publicity background by Mr Stockman.

"Mr Regan will decide one day to move and he will eat Stockman for breakfast," says one Wall Street banker. Certainly many people in Washington believe that if things start going wrong in Congress on the budget plan, then Mr Stockman may prove to be the Administration's first scapegoat. At that time his political skills may be truly tested.



Mr David Stockman: worked to a six-week deadline.

Economic notebook

Public spending: the Government gets it wrong again...

We have been here before. The Government's White Paper on public spending repeats all the mistakes which turned last year's document into nonsense.

We are once again faced with a Government which, to paraphrase Shakespeare's King Lear, intends to "do such things—what they are it yet knows not—that shall be the terror of the earth".

There is, however, one big difference between the Government and Lear. The Government does not know what it has done after it has done it, not simply before.

Public spending in the last financial year of the previous Labour government (1978-79) was 2.5 per cent lower than it was in 1974-75, the first year of that Government's rule. Public spending in 1981-82 will be 1.8 per cent higher than it was in 1979-80, the first year that this administration was in power.

That ought to suggest that something is wrong with the way they have gone about cutting spending. Yet in the latest plans, we get a solemn repetition of what we got last year. The latest White Paper forecasts that between 1981-82 and 1983-84 spending will drop by £2,000m in the "funny money" of 1980 survey prices. Treasury ministers are already queuing up to say that this is not

good enough and that yet more cuts need to be found.

But are the cuts already "agreed"? They are in fact almost wholly fictitious. The most important of them are in the sector known as "trade, industry, energy and employment". Spending in this sector is expected to drop from just over £1,000m this year to £2,400m in 1983-84. Nearly £800m of this cut comes from a rag-bag of programmes, which include assistance for British Leyland, set at £490m this year.

Now we all know that BL put forward a four-year plan. We equally know that the Prime Minister decided to compromise by giving formal approval for just the first two years. We also know that BL will need money from 1983 onwards if it is not to close. But because, technically, no decision has been taken to approve this money it is not included in the White Paper.

None of this is the fault of officials in the Treasury, who have to do the best they can with the decisions made by ministers. But this vagueness is leading the Government to delude itself about what it is really doing to public spending. Spending on present consumption has not really been cut. Spending to pick up the bill for the country's economic crisis, keeping it afloat, but not this year.

Other programmes show the same

pattern. There is an expectation that employment measures will cost £500m less at today's prices in 1983-84 than they do this year, even though the number of unemployed will be half a million more.

Yet every time the unemployment figures go up, Mr Jim Prior, the Secretary of State for Employment, comes forward with another set of temporary measures.

A similar pattern is visible in the treatment of nationalized industries. When the White Paper was published last year government lending to these was expected to be only £880m during 1981/2. The latest estimates is £1,400m. Yet in spite of the proof that all of the assumptions on which the policy was based are absurdly optimistic, the Government has reiterated its belief that 1983/4 the nationalized industries will be paying the Government back for money they have borrowed.

None of this is the fault of officials in the Treasury, who have to do the best they can with the decisions made by ministers. But this vagueness is leading the Government to delude itself about what it is really doing to public spending. Spending on present consumption has not really been cut. Spending to pick up the bill for the country's economic crisis, keeping it afloat, but not this year.

Other programmes show the same

pattern. There is an expectation that employment measures will cost £500m less at today's prices in 1983-84 than they do this year, even though the number of unemployed will be half a million more.

We have got a little more subtle than we were in 1966 when hospitals were left half-finished. Now, the hospitals are not even started.

The only way in which the Government will be able to make further cuts in public spending to fulfil its present plans, let alone to get spending down to a lower level, will be to make large cuts in the capital programme.

This means either finding some way of transferring out of the definition of the public spending borrowing requirement those services of public corporations which can be shown to be profitable, something long advocated in this column. Or it means not simply juggling about with the external financing limits of nationalized industries but also cutting deep into the amount that they spend on investment.

The most likely bet at the moment has to be that the nationalized industries are encouraged to cut their spending on the grounds that there is inadequate demand for the products anyway. That would be a disaster, but an inevitable one given the framework which has dominated policy for the past year.

David Blake

... but can the new controls put it right?

Sir Geoffrey Howe signalled the passing of an era in his Budget on Tuesday, when he disclosed the Government's intention of moving towards a system of cash planning for public expenditure.

At the very least it will mean a big modification of what has loosely come to be known as the "Plowden system"—the method of planning built up in the 1960s following the report of the committee chaired by Lord Plowden (Control of Public Expenditure, White Paper, Cmd 1432).

The central recommendation of the Plowden committee was that public expenditure should be planned over a period of years ahead in relation to prospective resources.

This gave rise to the system of annual surveys of expenditure under which programmes were planned in volume terms, for four years ahead. Decisions were taken about the number of miles of roads that would be built during the planning period or the number of teachers that would be needed to meet policy objectives on education.

Little regard was given to the prices that might have to be paid when the expenditure was undertaken. The prices used for the entire four-year period (now reduced

to three years) were those in existence many months before even the decisions about spending were taken. These so-called "survey prices" are what are popularly known as "funny money".

By the first year of the planning period, these prices are 18 months, or more, out of date. Thus, the spending plans for the coming financial year—1981-82—are drawn up in terms of prices ruling in the autumn of 1979.

This is the system that will now change. From now on the starting point for the first year of the planning period will be the amount of cash which governments think it is desirable to spend. This is unlikely to mean that regard will be paid to volume, the miles of road that can be built with the cash available, or the number of teachers that can be afforded—but the emphasis will now change markedly.

This change is in keeping with the broad evolution of the control and administration of public spending since the middle 1970s. A preoccupation with the size of the public sector borrowing requirement and the growth in the money supply has already led to a shift away from the Plowden recommendation to consider expenditure plans in relation to prospective

resources. The financing of the spending plans has become the major imperative, and the justification for several expenditure cutting exercises.

In addition, the last Government introduced the cash limits control system. However, cash limits did not alter the way that expenditure was planned. Their job has been to make sure that, once the plans were laid, the cost was kept within the bounds set by Government.

It remained true that when the plans were initially formulated, little attention was given to cost. Thus, the cash limits were used to control a level of expenditure which was already greater than it might have been had a cash restraint been applied at an earlier stage.

However, whereas cash limits cover only about 60 per cent of public spending, the new system of cash planning covers the entire field.

The difficulty which the Treasury ministers now face under the cash planning system will be that this spring's expenditure review, in which they will have to arrive at a view about the level of inflation 18 months or more ahead.

The first year of the period under review this spring will be 1982-83, and much can happen to inflation between now and then. For example, a sharp drop

in the pound's exchange rate this summer could leave inflation much higher in 1982 than now seems likely.

But unless ministers make a judgment about the level of future inflation, they will not be able to set the cash framework in which the spending decisions will be taken.

It is suggested in Whitehall, however, that this will not so much involve forecasting inflation as setting a goal for future inflation levels and then making it stick. The trouble is that ministers are notoriously optimistic about what their policies can achieve and they will be peering further into the future than is usual.

If they significantly underestimate the future levels of price changes, either public services will be cut below the planned levels or the Government will be forced to raise the spending total.

Final decisions, however, will still be taken in the autumn preceding the financial year to which the cash plans relate. This will give the Cabinet an opportunity to take account of

changes in the outlook since the review began the previous spring.

This shift to cash planning is also to be accompanied by an extension of the use of the contingency reserve in containing the upward pressure of spending after decisions have been taken.

The last Labour government began the practice of using the contingency reserve as a control instrument. Demands for new expenditure had to be met out of it, and ministers from spending departments had to compete for contingency reserve money.

Now, it will not only be decisions involving new items of spending that will have to be met from the reserve.

In future, if cash limits are breached in some area of spending because, say, prices turn out to be higher than expected—and the Government decides to meet the higher costs—the extra cash will also come out of the reserve.

Melvyn Westlake

Business Diary: Furniture's Plumb contract • Oil in troubled waters?

Malcolm Perring, chairman of the pressure group, the Furniture Information Council, tells us that the British Airports Authority has had a change of heart and is after all to give £300,000 contract for furnishing its Gatwick HQ to a British firm.

Perring, marketing director of Ferrings, the Home Counties furniture retailers, led a campaign to get the BAA to change its mind when in April the state corporation, which owns the country's international airports, was said to be signing up an Italian furniture maker.

Together with his predecessor, Jerrold Nathan, managing director of Nathan Furniture, Perring started kicking up a fuss, starting with letters to John Nott, the Trade Secretary. The BAA in turn said reports of the Italian deal were premature, asked two suppliers to tender, and has now given the job to Plumb Contracts of Coventry and Huddersfield.

Perring's joy at this development would have been even greater had the British firm been a member of the Furniture Information Council, but you can't win 'em all, says Perring. FIC membership papers have been sent to Plumb.

Hilton International, the TWA subsidiary which has 81 hotels around the world, has appointed its first woman manager. She is Julia Chan (below), who takes over at the Hilton International Taipei, Taiwan.

She takes over from general manager James Smith who is off to the group's Toronto Harbour Castle hotel.

Mrs Chan, who is only a few years older than the group itself, was born in the mainland city of Shanghai, and was educated in Hongkong. She is a divorcee with two children and has worked her way up through the Taipei Hilton, where she began as banquet manager, by way of courses at Hilton's Montreal training school.



Wallchart
HMM... AN INTERESTING NEW PLOY BY THE UNIONS

As pressure on South Africa starts to build up at the United Nations, the search is being stepped up for the one vital natural resource which the country has not yet discovered—oil.

For the past 12 years exploration for oil and gas has been taking place around the South African coast in the hope of finding reserves which would be sufficiently abundant to allow the government to turn its back on the threat of an oil embargo. The search proved to be barren until last December when Soekor—the government-backed exploration company—made a strike near Mossel Bay in the Cape which was described as "the most encouraging find so far".

Since then the oil industry has tended to play down expectations that this could be

an important find. It said it would take up to a year to determine if the find was worth while.

However, hopes have again been raised by the news that Soekor has placed an order for two giant offshore oil rigs costing some £40m each.

Such is the secrecy surrounding anything to do with the supply, production or storage of oil in South Africa that Soekor has even declined to say where the rigs are to be built. It is reliably reported to be Japan.

The rigs are scheduled for delivery late next year and will, according to Soekor, be able to operate at depths of more than 500 metres in severe weather conditions. Just right for pumping oil from the stormy waters that surround the Cape.

THEY'RE ASKING FOR PARITY WITH OTHER ENERGY COSTS...

Dreadful though the Budget's reception may have been, Sir Geoffrey Howe apparently believes that it will not drive the nation to drink. On January 12, in a parliamentary written answer, Peter Rees a Treasury Minister said each 1 per cent increase in the duty on beer would net an extra £10m a year, and each 1 per cent on wine and spirits £5m.

The increases in duty were in fact 38 per cent on beer, 14.5 per cent on spirits, and 17 per cent on wine; but the Chancellor's revenue estimates have been revised downward.

The Chancellor seems to expect us to drink 5 per cent less wine, 8 per cent less spirits, and 1.5 per cent less beer.

In these hard times, the president of the Spanish organizing committee of the World Football Championship, Raimundo Saporta, admits, "we have had to invent the money" to get Spain ready for the multi-billion-pound sports show which will fill the country's stadiums beginning in Barcelona in June, 1982.

He has done a better job of inventing it than most. For one thing his World Cup committee is the only entity in Spain that comes out ahead on the football pools every week, apart from the pool sponsors. In order to finance part of the costs, he persuaded the Spanish state to set aside 50 centimos (about one quarter of a penny) of every pool bet for World Cup expenses.

For another, he got the national lottery administration to turn over the profits of a special draw.

"The administration", Saporta chortles, "is no longer asking who will pay the deficit."

It's an ill wind... I have grown used to spring sales, summer sales and even autumn sales, but a Liverpool furniture store is offering what could be a new perennial, a slump sale.

Ross Davies

DEREK CROUCH LIMITED

Preliminary Announcement of Results for the year Ended 31st December, 1980

	1980 £'000	1979 £'000
Turnover	65,700	51,474
Earnings before Tax and Interest	5,384	2,989
Interest Payable	2,340	1,613
Earnings before Tax	3,044	1,386
Earnings after all charges and taxation	1,437	548
Dividends	490	446
Earnings per Share	14.68p	5.84p

The Chairman, Mr. D. C. H. Crouch stated: "The outlook in the U.K. for the current year is still obscure and our objectives will necessarily remain flexible. However, it is our intention to continue the policy of reducing our overall indebtedness during this year."

"Our workload in the coal mining sector both in the U.S.A. and U.K. is substantial and will provide continuity of work for some years ahead. Our Directors are confident that, with this base, our Company can look forward to a satisfactory future."

Recommended final 3.42p per share making total for the year of 5.05p per share, a 10% increase on last year.

Copies of the Annual Report can be obtained from the Secretary at Peterborough PE6 7UW

THE HONGKONG BANK GROUP

announces that
on and after

11th March, 1981

the following annual rates
will apply

Base Rate . . . 12%
(Previously 14%)

Deposit Rate (basic) 9%
(Previously 11%)

**The Hongkong and Shanghai
Banking Corporation**

**The British Bank
of the Middle East.**

Mercantile Bank Limited

Antony Gibbs & Sons, Ltd.

The Royal Bank of Scotland

INTEREST RATES

The Royal Bank of Scotland Limited announces that with effect from 12th March 1981 its base rate for lending is being reduced from 14 per cent per annum to 12 per cent per annum.

As from the 12th March 1981 the rate of interest on Investment Accounts will be reduced to 10 per cent per annum. The maximum rate of interest allowed on Deposits lodged for a minimum period of seven days or subject to seven days' notice of withdrawal at the London Offices of the Bank will be reduced to 9 per cent per annum.

Prime Investment Opportunity in Washington, D.C.

Long established European style luxury hotel in historic Georgetown, Washington, D.C., adjacent to Embassy Row, now available for condo ownership. Ideal for overseas corporations and executives. Now accepting \$5,000.00 deposits from principals. Write or call: The Wellington (Tel 202-337-1000) 2505 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20007 U.S.A.

Banco Nacional de México, S.A.

Institución Privada de Banca Múltiple
Incorporated with limited liability in Mexico
Label in Catálogo 44 - México D.F. - telephone 5-16-90-20

SUMMARY

The Board of Directors of Banco Nacional de México, S.A., in meeting on 27th February 1981, resolved to call a shareholders' meeting to be held at the Head Office of the Bank on 27th March 1981 at 10.00 hours in the City of Mexico, D.F., to transact the business contained in the following AGENDA:

AGENDA

1. Presentation of the Report of the Board of Directors, including the financial statements relating to the 1980 financial year, in accordance with the provisions of the General Regulations of the Bank, and the approval thereof, if appropriate, after verifying the report of the Comptroller.
2. Proposal and resolution on appropriation of profits.
3. In accordance with the Article of Association, for the number of members of the Board of Directors for the period ending upon the 31st of March 1981, to transact the business contained in the following AGENDA:
4. Election of Comptroller.
5. Remuneration of the Directors and Comptroller.

To be entitled to attend the Meeting shareholders must, at least 15 days before the holding of the same, obtain the appropriate statement from the Bank of Mexico, S.A., in accordance with the provisions of the General Regulations of the Bank, and the approval thereof, if appropriate, after verifying the report of the Comptroller.

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Label in Catálogo 44 - México D.F. - telephone 5-16-90-20

FINANCIAL NEWS

Stock markets

TI results leave equities battered

Early signs that equities would manage to resist the post-Budget gloom disappeared abruptly yesterday with news of sharply-reduced profits from Tube Investments.

A sharp markdown in prices at the outset did much to avert an outbreak of selling, but even though sellers still outweighed buyers, the market showed some signs of recovery, helped by encouraging full-year figures from F. W. Woolworth, unchanged at 56p, after 59p, and a better-than-expected performance from Turner & Newall, down 4p at 71p. But it was the halved profits and reduced dividend from Tube Investments, wiping 34p from the shares at 178p, which was the final blow.

In the event, the FT Index, which had recovered from being 7.5 down to only 4.2 before Tube's announcement, tumbled 14.3 by the close to 470.0.

Elsewhere, the story was of further heavy selling as the Budget casualties continued to mount and Datastream estimated that £1,661m had been wiped off the value of the FT 100. Stocks were particularly badly hit.

Only banks appeared able to resist the trend, shaking off the imposition of a windfall tax to raise £400m. Barclays ended the day 1p higher at 385p, and Lloyds 1p up at 295p, while National Westminster eased 7p to 345p and Midland 6p to 312p. Hill Samuel was also a dull spot, sliding 9p to 131p, and Mercury Securities lost 10p to 213p.

Gilt-edged were again in sparkling form celebrating the 2 per cent cut in MLR and the renewed promise to reduce the PSBR. The remaining £800m of the Exchange, 12 per cent 1989 was finally exhausted as dealers resumed with applications oversubscribed four times. The price rose £1.2 to 891.1.

In loans, gains of up to £1.1 were reported before lunch, although the announcement of a new £1,000m top Exchange 12 1/2 per cent 1990 £15 paid, saw profit taking and prices closed only £1 higher on the day. At 345p, the 12 1/2 per cent 1990 £15 paid, saw profit taking and prices closed only £1 higher on the day.

Elsewhere, the story was of further heavy selling as the Budget casualties continued to mount and Datastream estimated that £1,661m had been wiped off the value of the FT 100. Stocks were particularly badly hit.

Latest results

Company	Sales	Profits	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
		£m	per share	pence	date	total
Int of Fin	8,596.65	0.76(13.9)	(1.9)	(1.9)	27/4	7.3(13.5)
Antioquaga (F)	278(269)	1.1(20.5)	19.7(36.3)	2.0(8.0)	27/4	7.3(13.5)
Brit Aluminium (F)	2,081(1,833)	0.84(13.9)	12.1(20.2)	2.5(4.1)	14/5	31
Camelina Int (F)	2,19(0.3)	0.1(0.08)	14.4(11.4)	6.0(5.5)	14/5	(1)
Wm Collins (F)	0.8(0.7)	0.1(0.08)	14.4(11.4)	6.0(5.5)	14/5	(1)
Findrom (F)	533.2(496.2)	0.1(0.08)	14.4(11.4)	6.0(5.5)	14/5	(1)
Int Distillers (F)	14.9(11.7)	0.1(0.08)	14.4(11.4)	6.0(5.5)	14/5	(1)
J. Jarvis (F)	31.4(24.2)	1.5(1.65)	12.1(27.0)	3.1(1.87)	1/5	(8.75)
Maynards (F)	74.2(69.78)	2.2(1.8)	6.4(4.9)	NIL(2.6)	14/5	5.0(4.82)
Pentos (F)	2.9(2.9)	0.1(0.08)	14.4(11.4)	6.0(5.5)	14/5	(1)
Thos Robinson (F)	1.1(1.1)	0.1(0.08)	14.4(11.4)	6.0(5.5)	14/5	(1)
Tube Inv (F)	635(592)	1.5(1.65)	12.1(27.0)	3.1(1.87)	1/5	(8.75)
Turner & Newall (F)	325.1(1,000.7)	1.5(1.65)	12.1(27.0)	3.1(1.87)	1/5	(8.75)
Ultrasoft (F)	1.1(1.1)	0.1(0.08)	14.4(11.4)	6.0(5.5)	14/5	(1)
W. Woolworth (F)	56(56)	0.1(0.08)	14.4(11.4)	6.0(5.5)	14/5	(1)

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. * Net. † Loss. ‡ Subsidiary of Grand Metropolitan.

Receiver for Ascot TV Rentals

Ascot TV Rentals has gone into receivership. The parent company, Ascot TV Rentals (Holdings), chaired by Mr Tony Rudd, had its shares suspended in February at 6p while the financial position was clarified and the belated accounts for the year to end-March 1980 were finalised.

In 1978-79 the group lost £48,000, and its dividends have been paid since 1976.

The subsidiary, Ascot TV Rentals, had made heavy losses in spite of the injection of £400,000 from a group rights issue in late 1979. Mr Rudd said yesterday that a circular will be sent to group shareholders as soon as possible.

British Enkalon loss jumps to £8.9m

British Enkalon, which is cutting back production at its Northern Ireland plant and making 800 workers redundant, has turned in an £8.9m pre-tax loss for 1980.

The loss, which compares with a pre-tax loss in 1979 of £2.15m, has created a £5m deficit in shareholders' funds. The Dutch Akzo group controls 84 per cent of Enkalon's shares. The group declined to say whether the 12 months to December 31, 1980, from £50.5m to £57.2m while interest charges rose a little from £2.34m to £2.36m.

Mr Ingles back in charge at Rosgill

Mr James Ingles has resumed the chairmanship of Rosgill Holdings following the resignation of Mr David Peel. Mr Peel became chairman in December when Mr Ingles, a co-founder of the company, resigned after "disagreements".

Mr Ingles won back control of Rosgill last month in conjunction with Amber Day, bidding through private company Lawncast.

Four Polly Peck directors resign

Following the establishment of the corrugated box manufacturing plant in northern Cyprus last year and the acquisition of the majority holding in Cornhill Dressing this year, Mr Raymond Zelker, Mrs Sybil Zelker, Mrs Elizabeth Levin and Mr Derek Hayes have resigned from the board of Polly Peck (Holdings). Mr Asif Nadir takes over as chairman and managing director.

Colguy lifts stake in Wm Press

By Our Financial Staff

Colguy Holdings, a subsidiary of Sir Robert McAlpine and Sons whose parent company is Newhall, has boosted its stake in William Press and Son, the engineering concern. Colguy has bought a further 2m shares, making a total of 11.9m to bring its stake to a shade over 10 per cent. William Press's share price slipped 3p yesterday to 33p, valuing the latest purchase at £670,000.

Earlier this month William Press surprised the stock market with its acquisition of a 1.5 per cent stake in French

Kier, the civil engineering group.

Before that, the McAlpine stake was regarded as a potential bid stake, particularly if Press's dispute with the Inland Revenue depressed its share price, then at 32p. The stake was held by Colguy, Kier holding as a trade investment but observers regarded it as a defensive move.

A few days later Press announced that it was forming a new holding company to separate group management from the trading subsidiaries and pave the way for expansion abroad.

Investigation at Rank hotels sought

By Our Financial Staff

A "thorough investigation" into the hotels owned by the Rank Organizations was demanded yesterday by a shareholder at the group's annual meeting. Mrs Edna Allen, wife of an hotel and catering union shop steward at the Royal Lancaster in London, welcomed the appointment of Mr Robert Butler as head of the hotel division and said that she hoped "basic accounting and cost control systems will now be introduced".

Mr Stuart May, managing director of the hotels division, said: "I've had allegations before from Mr Allen over the past three years. On investigation by us, none has been shown to have any foundation."

Mrs Allen told the chairman, Mr Harry Smith: "A number of Rank hotels have been open to abuse. In view of this there should be a thorough investigation of the division." Mr Smith told her that he was sure Mr Butler would look into the matter and take any action he felt was appropriate.

Mr Butler, appointed head of the hotels division in January after the resignation of Mr Edmund T. Cullin, said after the meeting: "I have arranged to meet with Mr Allen. If I feel there is cause for investigation there will be one."

Meanwhile, Mr Smith told shareholders that there was no evidence of an improving trend in the group's prospects, but that it should benefit from actions taken to discontinue manufacturing activity in television and audio and from the withdrawal from film production.

Pentos loss of £2.2m shocks market

By Catherine Gunn

Pentos shocked the market yesterday with a pre-tax loss of £2.2m for 1980 and no final dividend. The shares fell 7p to a new low of 22p, yielding 9.1 per cent of the single interim payment. CCA profits show a £3.5m deficit.

In 1979, the group made £3.2m before tax. Mr Terry Maher, the chairman, hopes to see Pentos in modest profit this year but looks to 1982 for full recovery. Dividend payments will be resumed as soon as trading permits. The 1980 tax charge is ACT only.

Pentos ranges from book-selling to mobile buildings but two thirds of its sales come from consumer products including books. A few of these were hit by the recession. Group sales were £74.4m against £69.8m. A poor final quarter reduced bookselling profits to under £1m and left it and the publishing division with a £120,000 loss.

Demand for greenhouses collapsed leaving Pentos with excess stocks and wiping out the gardening division's entire profits. High stocks, soaring debt and interest costs and three years of reorganizations, costing £1.8m, compounded the decline.

Group trading profits fell from £5.5m to £1.26m, while interest costs rose 86 per cent to £3.24m. Group debt at the December 31 year-end totalled £1.8m. The chairman, Mr Maher, plans to reduce stocks by £5m this year and said that further asset disposals should raise a similar sum.

Pentos will trim publishing further to concentrate on children's and educational books. Construction will also be trimmed.

Briefly

Unigate: The sale of production facilities to the Milk Marketing Board in August 1979, included assets constituting the charge for certain loan stock so negotiations with trustees for substitution of other assets have been completed and the £10.1m cash deposit released by the trustees.

Acorn Sporting Publications: Creditors have told that the company's assets, valued at £170,918 against liabilities of £19,000. A liquidator has been appointed.

Sutton District Water: The offer for sale by tender of £1m 8p per cent red pref stock 1986 at minimum price of issue £100 per cent attracted applications for £9.9m. Yearling Bonds: This week's issue of local authority bonds have coupled 12.1 per cent against 12.2 per cent last week.

Stock: The highest price to obtain an allotment was £110.00, the lowest to obtain a partial allotment was £102.25. The average price was £106.39.

Record year at Schroders

By Roman Eisenstein

Schroders, the holding company for J. Henry Schroder Wagge, one of the largest accepting houses in the City, has reached record profits for 1980 of £8.2m after tax, against £6.6m in 1979.

The group has declared a final dividend of 10.7p gross a share, making a total for the year of 15p gross, a 20 per cent increase on 1979.

Last year the group's banking subsidiaries made most of the running. After minority interests, tax and transfer to

William Collins tops £2m in sharp turnaround

By Rosemary Unsworth

William Collins & Sons (Holding), the Glasgow-based publishers in which Mr Robert Maxwell's Pergamon Press recently took a 7 per cent stake, has continued its sharp first-half recovery and finished the year well into the black.

Pre-tax profits came to £2.05m compared with £303,000 loss while turnover dropped slightly from £65.1m to £63.7m in the 12 months to December 31.

The main improvement in the group's fortunes came from its reorganization started in 1979 which resulted in 700 redundancies, at a cost of £10,000. Most were in the United Kingdom manufacturing operation. This enabled the division to make a substantial contribution, which was coupled with improved operating efficiency.

The other main area to return to profits was the Australian distribution company. Staff reductions were also made there and margins improved.

"The first-half improvement was more than maintained despite difficult trading conditions and the continued effect of the

strong pound," Mr William Collins, the chairman, said.

Mr Duncan McGhie, general manager, explained that the high value made on the sale of the company's shares, particularly in the United Kingdom, had been a major factor in the sharp turnaround. On top of that, the company had cut its public sector, which used to buy about half of United Kingdom hardbacks, had a dramatic effect. Nevertheless, Collins's turnover was 5 per cent increase in value terms on a comparable basis to the 15m sales relating to United States subsidiary, excluded.

After the reintroduction of the interim dividend at 0.5p, a final of 3.5p has been proposed, making a total 4.2p. Last year no payment was made.

The ordinary shares rose 5p to 145p, a new high for the announcement, while non-voting "A" shares slipped 10p. The board said that it had not received any formal offer from Mr Maxwell in the purchase of his holding in the company.

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By Roman Eisenstein

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Last year the group's banking subsidiaries made most of the running. After minority interests, tax and transfer to

inner reserves they reveal profits of £6m, compared with £4.6m. Besides J. Henry Schroder Wagge, the group banking interests include subsidiaries and associate companies in several countries, notably the United States, Australia and the Far East.

Part of the profits thus far have been achieved against a trend of strong sterling, subsidiaries in Australia, United States, where the group gained wider margins, caused by high interest rates and Hongkong did particularly well.

Maynards slips in first half

Confessioner and tobaccoist Maynards saw interim profits to December 31 fall by about 8 per cent to £1.52m, though sales rose by 30 per cent to £31.4m, excluding VAT.

The interim dividend has been raised to 4.46p gross from 2.68p, to reduce the disparity between the two payments. Last year's total payout was 12.5p gross. The shares rose 10p to 176p.

The company hopes to produce "favourable" full-year figures, Mr Peter Salmon, the chairman, said that price-cutting in tobacco and confectionery was still intense and had reduced margins. But the introduction of toys to Maynards's range had proved successful.

Bank Base Rates

ABN Bank	12 1/2
Barclays	12 1/2
BCCI	12 1/2
Consolidated Crds	12 1/2
C. Hoare & Co	12 1/2
Lloyds Bank	12 1/2
Midland Bank	12 1/2
Nat Westminster	12 1/2
TSB	12 1/2
Williams and Glyn's	12 1/2

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited

27/28 Lovat Lane London EC3R 8EB Telephone 01-621 1212

	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Div	Yld	P/E
75	39	Airsprung Group	65	-1	6.7	10.3	5.6	
50	21	Armitage & Rhodes	50	+1	1.4	2.8	20.6	
192	92	Bardon Hill	189	-	9.7	5.1	7.1	
98	88	Deborah Services	94	-1	5.5	5.9	4.7	
126	88	Frank Horsell	106	-	6.4	6.0	3.2	
110	40	Frederick Parker	40	-	1.7	4.3	17.4	
110	74	George Blair	74	-	3.1	4.2	-	
110	59	Jackson Group	107	-	6.9	6.4	4.1	
124	103	James Burrough	118	-1	7.9	6.7	9.7	
334	244	Robert Jenkins	328	-	31.3	9.5	-	
55	50	Scruttons "A"	51	-	5.3	10.4	3.7	
224	215	Torday Limited	216	-	15.1	7.0	3.7	
23	10	Twinlock Ord	11	-	-	-	-	
90	69	Twinlock 15% ULS	72	-	15.0	20.8	-	
56	35	Unilock Holdings	46	-	3.0	6.5	7.1	
103	81	Walter Alexander	100	-1	5.7	5.7	3.5	
263	181	W. S. Yeates	263	-	12.1	4.6	4.3	

Banco Nacional de México, S.A.

Institución Privada de Banca Múltiple
Incorporated with limited liability in Mexico
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NOTICE

The Board of Directors of Banco Nacional de México, S.A., in meeting on 27th February 1981, resolved to call a shareholders' meeting to be held at the Head Office of the Bank on 27th March 1981 at 10.00 hours in the City of Mexico, D.F., to transact the business contained in the following AGENDA:

AGENDA

1. Presentation of the Report of the Board of Directors, including the financial statements relating to the 1980 financial year, in accordance with the provisions of the General Regulations of the Bank, and the approval thereof, if appropriate, after verifying the report of the Comptroller.
2. Proposal and resolution on appropriation of profits.
3. In accordance with the Article of Association, for the number of members of the Board of Directors for the period ending upon the 31st of March 1981, to transact the business contained in the following AGENDA:
4. Election of Comptroller.
5. Remuneration of the Directors and Comptroller.

To be entitled to attend the Meeting shareholders must, at least 15 days before the holding of the same, obtain the appropriate statement from the Bank of Mexico, S.A., in accordance with the provisions of the General Regulations of the Bank, and the approval thereof, if appropriate, after verifying the report of the Comptroller.

The Board of Directors of Banco Nacional de México, S.A., in meeting on 27th February 1981, resolved to call a shareholders' meeting to be held at the Head Office of the Bank on 27th March 1981 at 10.00 hours in the City of Mexico, D.F., to transact the business contained in the following AGENDA:

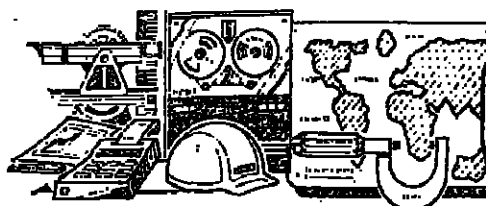
Label in Catálogo 44 - México D.F. - telephone 5-16-90-20

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited
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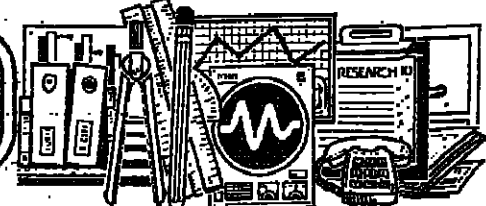
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A group of companies concerned with
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Recruitment Opportunities



Engineers Overseas Appointments*** Accountancy*** Finance*** Sales*** Overseas Appointments*** Accountancy*** Finance*** Sales*** Marketing*** General*** Computing*** Management & Executive Appointments***

Royal Botanic Gardens Director

A Director of high scientific standing is required for the Royal Botanic Gardens on the retirement later this year of Professor J.P.M. Brennan.

The Director will carry overall responsibility for all aspects of the work of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew and at Wakehurst Place, Ardingly, Sussex. The Gardens, while primarily a scientific institution, also provide an important public amenity. The scientific work is concerned with the classification, growth, structure and uses of plants, utilising the rich collections of preserved material in the Herbarium and Museum and the unique collection of living plants in the Gardens. Taxonomic and morphological studies are carried out in the Herbarium and anatomical, cytological, biochemical and physiological research is undertaken in the Jodrell Laboratory. The results are published in the "Kew Bulletin".

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

"Icones Plantarum" and other periodicals, in florae and in separate works. Kew is also a centre for conservation work on plants.

The Director is likely to be a senior scientist of outstanding academic attainment with administrative experience. The successful candidate will be expected to maintain contact with similar institutions throughout the world and with universities and research stations operating in the broad field of plant sciences.

Salary £20,920. The Director's residence on Kew Green will be available.

For further details and an application form (to be returned by 15 April 1981) write to Civil Service Commission, Alencon Link, Basingstoke, Hants, RG21 1JB, or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 68551 (answering service operates outside office hours). Please quote ref: S/5524/1.

British Museum Curator Chinese Collections

... to assist in all aspects of these collections within the Department of Oriental Antiquities, with special emphasis on Chinese ceramics and decorative arts. This involves documentation of the collections; dealing with public enquiries; bibliography; helping with the Departmental Library and photographic archives; and undertaking pre-exhibition research. Work also includes assisting in preparing both general and specialist publications, giving public lectures and preparing educational publications.

Candidates must have a good knowledge of written Chinese, and preferably an honours degree in the language together with qualifications, experience or interest in the material culture of China.

Salary (under review): as Curator Grade E £7,615-£9,570 or Curator Grade F £5,915-£7,760. Level of appointment and starting salary according to age, qualifications and experience. Non-contributory pension scheme.

For further details and an application form (to be returned by 3 April 1981) write to Civil Service Commission, Alencon Link, Basingstoke, Hants, RG21 1JB, or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 68551 (answering service operates outside office hours). Please quote ref: G/5382.

THE BRITISH COUNCIL OF CHURCHES EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Division of Community Affairs

Applications are invited for the post of Executive Secretary with special responsibility for the Community and Race Relations Unit. This is a senior specialist post falling vacant by the retirement of the Rev Elliott Kendall.

The person appointed will be responsible for encouraging the churches in the combating of racism and the development of good community relations.

Candidates may be ordained or lay and must be a church member in good standing. They shall have theological competence, administrative skills and the ability to work flexibly as part of a team.

An application form is available from: The General Secretary, BCC, 2 Eaton Gate, London, SW1W 9EL. Closing date for applications: 3rd April, 1981.

OUTLINE UPHOLSTERY LTD.

If you are aged between 23-27 years and have perhaps held a commission in Her Majesty's forces, or feel you could have done but didn't, Outline would very much like to meet you.

The company is a successful growing subsidiary of the United Kingdom's largest upholstery manufacturer and is looking for management trainees through sales. Excellent opportunities abound for an outgoing high calibre person.

Please write to: The Sales Director, Outline Upholstery Ltd, Talbot Green, Pontyclun, Mid Glamorgan.

FACTS ARE MY BUSINESS . . .

... especially (but not exclusively) facts that are hard to turn up. I can research for anything: books, broadcasting, TV, magazines, speeches, theses.

I have three languages, ferret tenacity and the stamina to double-check everything for accuracy. I know my way around. My knowledge of sources and contacts is good enough to have won the Campaigning Journalist of the Year title.

Try me at 01-735 9586 (24-hour phone).

BRIGHTON COLLEGE

Required from 1st August 1981

A BURSAR

Applications should be sent to the Chairman of the Governors, Brighton College, Eastern Road, Brighton BN2 2AL, marked "Bursar". A curriculum vitae (showing references and the names and addresses of three referees should accompany the application.

RECESSION?

WHAT RECESSION?

Our client, a rapidly expanding city based company, has immediate vacancies for Trainee Consultants. No previous experience is necessary as full sales and product training will be given. If you are a motivated, career orientated and well presented with a clear aptitude for sales, please telephone SAMAR GINGELL on 01-437 5148. RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS.

TWO YEARS AGO I WAS BROKE

Now I drive an Aston Martin, live in a 2 1/2 bedroom house, have my holidays abroad and need two ambitious people to share in my success aged 22-40.

RING NOW: TERRY RICHMAN on 01-401 0115

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Seeker A warbury publishing for a bright, responsible person to edit a new magazine. The person must be able to write, edit and proof. The magazine will be published weekly and will be a very high standard. The person must be able to work on their own and be able to meet deadlines. The person must be able to work on their own and be able to meet deadlines. The person must be able to work on their own and be able to meet deadlines.

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ASSISTANT TO DIRECTOR OF TRAINING

Hampstead College requires graduate aged 30-35 with experience in training and administration including timekeeping. An interest in and knowledge of the latest techniques in training is essential. Career prospects. Salary negotiable.

Applications including full curriculum vitae and the names of two referees to the Director of Training, St George's College, 2 Bedford Road, London NW3 6AD. Tel: 01-435 9831.

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THE PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION EDUCATIONAL PUBLISHERS COUNCIL RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Required for April 1981, a RESEARCH ASSISTANT to work for the Educational Publishers Council, which is the Division of the Publishers Association concerned with school book publishing. The main area of research will be the preparation, presentation and distribution of detailed reports on school books in different areas of the United Kingdom with special reference to levels of spending on school books. The successful candidate will also be expected to work on other projects under the supervision of the Director of the Council. Applicants should be graduates with a facility in numeracy and an ability to type and write well. Salary will be in the region of £5,000 p.a.

Application forms are available from Mrs Patricia Scott, Employment Executive, The Publishers Association, 19 Bedford Square London WC1B 3HJ, and should be returned by the 22nd March.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN ACCOUNTING/FINANCE GENERAL MANAGEMENT

£7,500 - £15,000

We have a current portfolio of clients' requirements that is extremely wide-ranging . . . in terms of profession/industry, job/person specification, level of seniority/salary, etc.

However, consisting only of situations arising with companies that are genuinely active and progressive, the pattern changes constantly and quickly with the best opportunities remaining "on the market" for only a short time.

Should you feel that your best interests might well be served by researching such possibilities as are consistent with your own particular career objectives.

Please telephone Malcolm Campbell.

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SCHOOL OF MUSIC DIRECTOR

Applications are invited for the post of Director of the School of Music. The Director is the senior officer of the School of Music and is responsible for the Principal for all aspects relating to the running of the School.

Salary: £15,945. The post is superannuable.

Full particulars of this vital post are available from the Secretary and Treasurer, BSAMD, St George's Place, GLASGOW G2 1BS. Tel: 01-552 4444. Applications for autumn.

With whom applications, including a full c.v. and the names of three referees, must be lodged by 31 March, 1981.

UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND PROFESSOR OF INORGANIC CHEMISTRY

The University of Queensland invites applications for the Chair of Inorganic Chemistry to become vacant in December 1980, with the retirement of Professor R. A. Pym. Applicants should be able to present evidence of substantial research achievement in the field of inorganic chemistry. The successful applicant will be given responsibility for the Chair of the Chemistry Department for undergraduate and postgraduate teaching in the inorganic chemistry. The salary is £20,000 p.a. plus superannuation. Applications close April 30, 1981. The University reserves the right to fill any chair by interim appointment.

(SHORT TERM) SENIOR LECTURER IN SURVEYING

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PERSONAL COLUMNS ALSO ON PAGE 28

DEATHS

NEAP.—On 11th March, George...
BARRATT.—On March 10th, 1981, to Nigel and Anne (nee Mason)...

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SOMEWHERE...
There must be a kind, wealthy...
At 24 Eccleston Street, London, S.W.1, The National Appeals Office of Mencap is at your service.

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HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS

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To all holidaymakers...

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Some simple tavernas and villas...

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CANCER RESEARCH
Much is known about cancer...

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Take advantage of low-season...

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